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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should there be more than just one legal cockfighting arena on Saipan?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

108 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Third Largest

China's economy grew to the world's third-largest in 2007, new data showed Wednesday.

ASIA...Page 22

Idol Season

An estimated 30.1 million people watched the season debut of "American Idol."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 27

Fitial has concerns about budget—Reyes. PAGE 2
Two farms caught stealing water from CUC. PAGE 3

Bribery charge filed vs Villagomez

Santos couple also indicted on bribery charge

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government filed additional charges against Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and co-defendants James and Joaquina Santos yesterday, adding bribery to the charges already being faced by the three.

Villagomez

The new charge alleges that Villagomez accepted a $15,000 bribe from the Santos couple for approving the purchase of Rydlyme, a cleaning and de-scaling chemical, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

See BRIBERY on Page 4

PIC DONATES TO CRIME STOPPERS FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Becky Benavente, Pacific Islands Club executive assistant to the general manager, turns over a $2,000 check yesterday on behalf of PIC to Crime Stoppers board chair Rick Northen to benefit the group's annual fundraising softball tournament.

No visa waivers for Chinese, Russian tourists—DHS

IN BRIEF

Guam-CNMI visa-waiver program

- Eligible countries: Australia, Brunei, Japan, Malaysia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, United Kingdom and Hong Kong
- Will go into effect on June 1 with possibility of six-month delay. Until then CNMI immigration laws still in effect
- Visiting time extended from 15 days to 45 days
- To learn more: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1231970813067.shtm
- Comments about the regulations can be mailed during the next 60 days to: Border Security Regulations branch, Office of International Trade, Customs and Border Protection, Mint Annes799 9th Street, NW, Washington DC 20001

"We anticipate that the CNMI will experience most of the economic impact of this rule because the rule federalizes the entry and exit procedures for nonimmigrant visitors to the CNMI."

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chinese and Russian tourists will not be eligible for entry into the CNMI under the joint Guam-CNMI visa waiver program until additional security measures are undertaken, according to proposed regulations released by the Department of Homeland Security yesterday.

The program will allow citizens of the following countries to enter Guam and the CNMI without a visa: Australia,

See NO VISA on Page 4

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Local

Fitial has 'concerns' about budget

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial has concerns about the revised fiscal year 2009 budget recently passed by the House of Representatives, according to press secretary Charles Reyes.

Reyes said it's premature to say what the governor will do with the bill because the Senate must still approve it, but the main concern was the lack of "critical cost-cutting measures—austerity holidays, reprogramming authority, and a reduction in Retirement Fund contributions."

"Those specific actions were not incorporated," he added.

The House of Representatives approved a reduced $156.76 million budget on Wednesday. The budget includes $148.1 million of projected government revenue, augmented with $5.17 million in Compact Impact funds and $3.5 million in "unencumbered" money taken from numerous accounts outside the general fund.

A separate $3.1 million is being proposed for the Department of Public Lands, whose revenue is constitutionally reserved for the agency's administrative costs and for investment by the Marianas Public Land Trust, and cannot be used for central government operations.

Last month both the House and Senate passed a $165.4 million budget, but Fitial notified them that he was vetoing it because of an $8 million drop in projected revenue. He then slashed government budgets across the board by 5.5 percent for the rest of the fiscal year.

Fitial

The House of Representatives failed earlier this week to override the governor's veto of the $165.4 million budget.

Rep. Ray Yumul, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said he used the governor's 5.5 percent budget cut as a model for the revised budget.

"Basically we followed what the governor did when he took the $156 million [in local government revenue] and taking that 5.5 percent and reducing it to $148 million," he said. "We've complied with that. We complied with his notification, so everything we did is based on his notification to us through his transmittals with the Secretary of Finance. So this legislation should be exactly what he's looking for."

The concerns do not mean the governor is going to reject the budget outright, Reyes said, but added that the administration hopes the Senate members will consider those concerns when they take up the budget discussion.

"It's a very difficult issue," he said. "It's difficult for everyone given the declining revenue."

Sen. Maria Pangelinan, chairwoman of the Senate's Fiscal Affairs Committee, said she believes the other members of the Senate will vote to pass the revised budget with the House's amendments.

As for Fitial approving the budget, Pangelinan said she's unsure.

"I don't know. I really do not know," she said. "I would hope he would be pleased and sign the budget, we really complied with what he proposed to the Legislature."

The Senate is expected to take up the budget bill on Tuesday. If passed it will go to the governor who will have 20 days to approve, line-item veto, or veto it altogether.

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Two farms caught stealing water from CUC

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. discovered yesterday two farms allegedly illegally tapping into the water supply, affecting the utility company's ability to provide potable water to the island, according to Bruce Megarr, CUC's deputy director for the Water and Sewer Division.

Megarr said he discovered two 1.5-inch mains reportedly tapping into CUC's water main, and based on the pressure and flow, the taps are using between 20 and 50 gallons per minute. The average household uses 130 to 230 gallons a day. The two farms' accounts with CUC were closed in 2007 for failure to pay.

The theft will ultimately harm the people of the CNMI, Megarr said.

"One of the CNMI's standards for potable water is maintaining 20 PSI 24-hours a day," he said. "Given our limited supply, theft like this, or alleged theft like this, can break our back. We lose pressure and therefore I'm not in compliance."

Not to mention the fact, he added, that honest, hardworking people are paying their bills to carry the load.

Another person nearby was allegedly found using a compression fitting whenever he needed to water his grounds. An illegal electric hookup at a construction site was also discovered, according to Megarr.

The alleged thefts were documented and the police were called, Megarr said, adding that it has been referred to investigators.

"This is significant. I'd say a public health threat," he said. "It's theft of service. We are going to treat it as such. More importantly, it's theft to the people paying their bills."

The deputy director said he knew there was a leak in the system or someone was stealing water. After doing some investigation in the area around Coral Ocean Point, he discovered the illegal taps.

Airport personnel avail of free health screening

The moment the volunteers set up their medical paraphernalia, personnel at the Saipan International Airport began lining up to avail of the free health screening—the first of the year.

The Community Guidance Center provided the staff for the health screening that was jointly organized by the Marianas Health Services, CNMI Diabetes Prevention and Control Program and the Pacific Wellness Center

"This is an activity that we are doing on a monthly basis. We are doing it in different areas and in different government offices," said MHS administrator Marlene C. Cruz.

Cruz explained that they intentionally set up the screening in high traffic areas where there are a lot of people coming in.

Except for yesterday's activity, the screening will be held every first Thursday of the month.

The next stop will be at the Department of Labor and Immigration offices on Feb.5.

"This is open to everybody and not just the people working in these offices," Cruz said.

Patient will be asked to register and fill out forms that will give health volunteers some basic information about the patient.

Some of the free services they are offering are blood sugar, blood pressure and BMI check-ups.

Usually, the patients must undergo fasting the night before the check-up.

Results of the screening in each month will be put into a database and presented to the appropriate agency for reference.

The culmination of these activities will be during the proclamation month in October.

"That time, we would be able to get a real picture of the number of people with high blood pressure and high blood sugar and other information," Cruz said.

She said similar activities will also be held on Rota and Tinian. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

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Local shrimp farm penetrates Guam military commissaries

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Businessman Anthony Pellegrino set another first when his Saipan SyAqua Aquaculture began exporting fresh chilled shrimps to the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy commissaries in Guam last month.

The China Town shrimp farm's operations manager, Rommel G. Catalma, said they shipped 100 lbs of shrimp last Dec. 16, followed a week later by another 100-lb. order to the Orote Naval Base and Anderson Air Force Base in Guam.

"We started out with 100 lbs and we plan to slowly increase that. It was a test case. In three days we almost sold out and we had to use some for our demos there and then after a few days we shipped another 100 lbs," Catalma said in a recent interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

He said Saipan SyAqua is selling the fresh chilled shrimps for $11.95 per lb., compared to Saipan prices, which are $8 per lbs. for the big-sized variety.

Catalma said the reason behind the higher cost of their product in Guam is the shipping as freight alone is almost a dollar a pound.

"Right now we're starting to feel the market, the demand, how often do we have to ship, so we're still ironing out all the logistical problems. We're expecting to go up to the level of 3,000 lbs or more per month."

Pellegrino, for his part, said penetrating the Guam military commissaries was no picnic.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan SyAqua Aquaculture exported fresh chilled shrimps last month to the Orote Naval Base and Anderson Air Force Base in Guam.

"Back in August a friend of mine suggested we export our shrimps there. We started to do some research and had to get approval from the military. There were a lot of paperwork. We had to welcome a veterinarian here last December from the military to inspect our facilities. They were very pleased. We were inspected twice by the military as to cleanliness, health, sanitation, and everything and we passed both times. So finally our first shipment was sent Dec. 16. In both commissaries they have an average of 1,000 customers a day," he said.

Pellegrino, a former Saipan Chamber of Commerce president, said the reception to the company's fresh chilled shrimps has so far been encouraging.

"They like our shrimp. They are not frozen. They like to have it as fresh, chilled shrimp and that's one of the niche markets that we found—fresh, chilled shrimp. We're very excited that this is the first time any company on Saipan was able to sell any product to the military commissary in Guam and now I'm talking to some of the [local] farmers to come in with me so they could sell their produce there," he said.

Catalma said the Guam commissaries are just the beginning as Saipan SyAqua is eyeing to penetrate other markets in the U.S. territory and even beyond.

"If Guam really opens up, we can still branch into other stores and hotels. The wonderful thing about the commissary is Guam's is it's just one of 14 commissaries around the region—Okinawa, Japan, and Korea. We're now included in the worldwide directory of commissaries," he said.

Pellegrino added, "We're on a stepping stone. Let's just do it one step at a time. We're optimistic."

Catalma said one thing going for them is the fact that Saipan SyAqua is an American company and its products are made in the U.S.A.

"The U.S. military commissaries prioritize American-made products and most frozen shrimps are from Indonesia and China and that's why they're very interested on our shrimp because they're made in the U.S.A.—that's our main strength."

NO VISA

From Page 1

Brunei, Japan, Malaysia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, United Kingdom and Hong Kong. Citizens of these countries would be eligible to stay in the CNMI or Guam for 45 days, up from the previous regulated 15.

The regulations state that, although DHS realizes the economic impact of China and Russia to tourism in the CNMI, the two countries will not be included in the program because of political, security and law enforcement concerns. The new regulations will take effect June 1, when section 702(a) of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 starts.

Some of the concerns hindering the inclusion of Russian and Chinese tourists into the program include high nonimmigrant visa refusal rates and concerns with repatriation of citizens to their home country.

The security concerns could be addressed in the next 12 to 18 months, at which point DHS would determine if the two groups would be eligible for the program.

'Devastating'

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski said the CNMI would be significantly impacted by the loss of the two markets.

"It's not a 100 percent surprise, because we had a hint, but it's devastating," he said. "It's not a good thing," noting that the two markets account for a fairly large percentage of the tourism market.

"Twenty percent of our economy, coupled with the fact that things aren't going well anyway," he said. "What can we do about it? There's not a lot we can do about it."

Arenovski urged all those affected by the new regulations to send in comments.

"This is not the time to be silent," he said. "This is not the time to be upset. This is the time to sit down and write down what that's going to mean to you. To those folks that don't think those tourism dollars don't matter, it's going to have an effect on the amount of taxes going into the government," which in turn impacts services like public safety, education and health care."

DHS, for its part, agrees the CNMI will see the brunt of the impact.

"We anticipate that the CNMI will experience most of the economic impact of this rule because the rule federalizes the entry and exit procedures for nonimmigrant visitors to the CNMI," DHS states.

Meanwhile, Guam will not be significantly affected economically because the visa-waiver only modifies Guam's existing program, extending the timeframe visitors can stay in the territory.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the governor's office, said Tinian's economy would be virtually wiped out without Chinese tourists.

"Tinian would be devastated," he said, noting that Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino caters to Chinese tourists and accounts for approximately 70 percent of the island's visitors.

"It would be very negative for Saipan as well, because, as you know, a lot of the hotels depend on Chinese and Russian tourists," he said. He added that high-end retail stores, like DFS, depend on those tourists as well.

'Significant economic benefit'

Based on numbers provided by the Marianas Visitors Authority, DHS said they determined the two markets provided a "significant economic benefit to the CNMI." Chinese nationals accounted for 10 percent of visitor arrivals, while Russian tourists account for 1 percent. On-island spending for Chinese and Russian tourists were $38 million and $20 million, respectively. Per-person spending for Chinese was $967 and $4,323 for Russians. Russian tourists tend to be high-income travelers who stay for about two weeks at a time.

However, DHS said the program could facilitate travel between Guam and the CNMI, according to DHS.

"[P] ackaged tours of both islands may appeal to some tourists, especially visitors that have already visited Guam," the regulations state.

When determining what countries would be eligible for the visa waiver, DHS looked at which countries provided "significant economic benefit" from the number of visitors for pleasure entering the CNMI one year before the date of the CNRA's enactment. However, if a country was found to represent a threat to the welfare, safety or security to the U.S., then that country was not deemed eligible, according to the regulations.

Six-month extension

DHS officials met with leaders from the CNMI government and private sector yesterday to discuss the visa waiver program. During the meeting, DHS officials discussed the possibility of a six-month extension to the beginning date of the program, thereby allowing Chinese and Russian tourists six more months to enter the CNMI. During the six-month extension the security measures could also be worked on, said Arenovski, who was present during the meeting.

The delay, according to the regulations, would depend on the Secretary of Homeland Security, who would consult the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the governor of the CNMI.

Customs and Border Protection will incur costs needed to build, operate and maintain six ports of entry in the Commonwealth, according to DHS. CBP estimates it will cost approximately $25.8 million to develop the infrastructure and $153,100 per year for port operation and maintenance. An initial $3.7 million will also be incurred for personnel relocation and $7.8 million per year for personnel salary and $5.3 million per year for associated temporary costs, for a total of $87.3 million to $91.7 million, depending on discount rates.

Working with the feds

Reyes said Gov. Benigno Fitial would be working with CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan on the issue. Together, Reyes said, they can work with the new administration and Congress to communicate the impact the new rules will have on the CNMI.

Fitial is also inviting DHS officials to visit Rota and Tinian, in order "to see the economic activity on those two islands first hand and evaluate the likely negative impact of the denial of the Russia and Chinese visa waiver program for those islands, as well as Saipan," Reyes said.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona has written to Rep. Sablan about the joint visa-waiver program, noting that a holdup of 18 months for the two markets "will be a severe disruption to those hotels and tour operators in the CNMI that already have marketing systems, personnel and infrastructure in place to accommodate these visitors."

By continuing to allow Chinese and Russian tourists while transitioning to the federal system, Manglona said, the CNMI would be able to address proactively any security issues that may arise with the visa waiver program.

BRIBERY

From Page 1

The new indictment also added a count of bribery against the Santos couple for allegedly offering the $15,000 to Villagomez.

The superseding indictment retained the previous charges filed against the three: conspiracy to defraud and to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, and theft concerning a program receiving federal funds.

Villagomez and the Santos couple are expected to appear this morning, Friday, in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Saipan Tribune tried yesterday to contact the lawyers for Villagomez and the Santos couple but only attorney Ramon Quichocho was available.

Quichocho, lawyer for Joaquina Santos, declined to comment, however, because he said he was still reviewing the superseding indictment.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley said the superseding indictment was filed because of the additional charges and as part of their ongoing investigation.

"We needed to ascertain and learn as many of the facts as we could. We want to make sure that it is what we think it is," O'Malley said.

The indictment states that on Dec. 7, 2007, James Santos signed a check in the amount of $15,000 drawn upon an account belonging to himself and Joaquina Santos, and made payable to Villagomez.

O'Malley said that on the same day, Villagomez deposited the check into his personal bank account.

A day before that, Dec. 6, 2007, Joaquina Santos allegedly deposited a CUC Operations Fund check in the amount of $50,000 into an account belonging to Blue Pacific as payment for Rydlyme.

O'Malley said that on Jan. 15, 2008, a co-conspirator, acting on behalf of CUC, authorized payment of $10,000 to Blue Pacific.

O'Malley said that on Jan. 16, 2008, Joaquina Santos deposited another CUC Operations Fund check into an account belonging to Blue Pacific.

The prosecutor said that on multiple occasions throughout the 2007 transaction, Villagomez, acting from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, contacted co-conspirators, as well as other CUC officers and employees, and pressured them into concluding the contract and making the payments to Blue Pacific and the Santos couple.

James Santos was the alleged owner and operator of a company named ISLAS, which supplied CUC with Rydlyme. ISLAS was then allegedly reconstituted under a different name, Blue Pacific.

The defendants allegedly conspired to bilk the CNMI government out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless purchases of Rydlyme for CUC.

Villagomez and the Santos couple have pleaded not guilty. Former CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero who was also charged with wire fraud, conspiracy, and theft of federal funds, signed a plea agreement and entered a guilty plea.

2 more alleged overstayers arrested

Immigration agents have arrested two more alleged illegal aliens, including one who has reportedly been overstaying in the CNMI for over eight years now.

Carlito I. Parahan, 49, and Liqiang Gu, 30, were brought to the Superior Court yesterday morning for a bail hearing.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos imposed a $1,000 cash bail each for the temporary release of the respondents.

Inos ordered Parahan and Gu to appear in court on Jan. 22 at 2pm to explain why they should not be deported from the CNMI.

Immigration Inspector Jay San Nicolas first obtained from the court an arrest warrant against Parahan in November 2007 after finding that he has been overstaying for seven years and five months then. The deportation case was taken off the calendar as Parahan could not be found at that time.

According to San Nicolas, Parahan, a Filipino, was issued a nonresident worker's entry permit that expired on June 10, 2000.

Immigration records indicate that Parahan used to work as a mason for Isauro S. Eugenio and Fortune International Inc. He was arrested early this week.

With respect to Gu, Immigration Investigator John Peter stated in his report that last Tuesday at 11am Immigration Maj. Vince Lizama arrested the respondent after he failed to provide any valid labor or immigration documents and identification.

At the time, Gu, a Chinese, was seen unloading containers for Ming Li Corp. at the Seaport Customs.

Peter said Gu was issued a foreign student entry permit that expired on April 5, 2005. The respondent did not renew his student status. Gu re-entered the CNMI as a nonresident worker on July 8, 2006.

The investigator said Gu was among three persons who were allowed to remain in the CNMI due to a criminal case. Peter said Gu was informed on April 7, 2008, that he had to leave the CNMI because the criminal case is already done.

Peter said Gu has overstayed in the CNMI for over nine months now.

Immigration earlier arrested four alleged illegal aliens, all Chinese nationals. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Wushin cuts LPG prices today

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Wushin Corp. slashed the prices of its liquefied petroleum gas product today by $0.23 per gallon for both bulk and wholesale customers.

Starting today, customers will enjoy the following price decreases from the Lower Base LPG supplier:

- $4 for a 90-lb. LPG cylinder;
- $2 for a 50-lb. LPG cylinder;
- $2 for a 40-lb. LPG cylinder; and
- $1 for a 20-lb. LPG cylinder

The company's decision to slash prices results in the cost of the 90-gallon LPG cylinder dropping from $106.50 to $102.50; the 50-gallon LPG cylinder from $62 to $60; the 40-gallon LPG cylinder from $52 to $50; and the 20-gallon LPG cylinder from $27.75 to $26.75.

The company said they are making the price cut after its main supplier in Guam also slashed its prices. But it cautioned that the price decreases may stop soon.

"We were notified by our main supplier of the price decrease last Jan. 9, 2009; however the delay of effective date was caused by the timing of shipment schedules. However, we cannot assure as to when the price of LPG will become stable since, based on our review, the trend of LPG prices in January is increasing in the international market.

Wushin's price decrease follows the $0.45 per gallon cut it implemented last Nov. 27.

Price trends from Saudi Aramco shows that the cost of LPG is at its lowest levels.

March 2008, which is the earliest baseline month available, saw the bulk cost of propane at $820 and that of butane at $825. It was at its highest level in July 2008, when propane hit $905 and butane $950.

Prices began to dramatically decrease starting November 2008 when it was pegged at $490 for both propane and butane. Currently (December 2008) the bulk cost of propane is $340, while that of butane is $335.

Wushin also clarified that the price of LPG is not tied to the wet fuel price (diesel and gas), because "no matter what the pump prices [are], it will not determine the price of LPG except for the landing cost of which fuel price affects the cost of freight and handling, particularly fuel surcharges."

Wushin is a wholesaler of LPG for commercial purposes, sells LPG cylinders for residential customers, and is a retailer of LPS accessories. The company also offers LPG connection and installation services.

For more information about Wushin, call 322-7415 or 322-8733.

Announcement for the Opening of the
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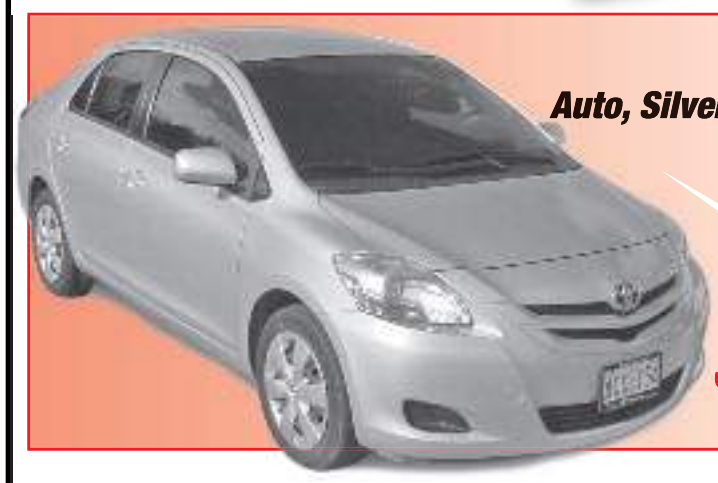
MICROL TOYOTA

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK



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U08-090R	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	42193	BLUE	ACJ-553	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
R08-020F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	50052	RED	ADO-831	15,999	
U08-085R	2007	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	31752	BLUE	ABZ-829	12,599	
U08-086R	2007	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	26401	BEIGE	ACF-320	12,599	
U08-043P	2000	CELICA 2DR	MANUAL	72097	BLUE	ABZ-838	7,999	
R08-021F	2005	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	68931	RED	ACD-510	9,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
U08-087R	2005	EPICA 4DR	AUTO	26553	OLIVE	ACB-027	5,999	
LEXUS								
U08-067P	1995	LEXUS LS400	AUTO	24762	WHITE	ABS-062	11,399	
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	26,899
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	BEIGE	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	4,899
GM VAN								
R08-017F	2003	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	117560	WHITE	BUS-1077	9,499	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD V6	AUTO	56882	BEIGE	ABY-153	~~14,599~~	12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799

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2X4X14 - $4.75	2X4X14 - $7.30
2X4X16 - $5.30	2X4X16 - $8.70
2X4X18 - $5.95	2X4X18 - $9.70
2X4X20 - $6.60	2X4X20 - $10.70
2X6X12 - $6.90	2X6X12 - $10.20
2X6X14 - $7.90	2X6X14 - $12.20
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X16 - $14.20
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'Tip helped DPS catch 3 Ballesteros suspects'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It was a Crime Stoppers tip that helped the Department of Public Safety apprehend the three suspects in the murder of security guard Efren Ballesteros at the Marianas High School, according to NMI Crime Stoppers Program president Jim Arenovski yesterday.

Arenovski said that Crime Stoppers tips to DPS led to a number of arrests in 2008, but none more significant than the one that helped police arrest the three murder suspects.

"This is a testament that Crime Stoppers is indeed a vital tool to be used by our men and women at DPS and all law enforcement branches in the NMI," said Arenovksi during the proclamation signing declaring January as CNMI Crime Stoppers Month.

Arenovski said the program is only effective if three things are working well: community members who are making the calls, the media that reports the success of the program and the cases, and the law enforcers who go out and investigate the tips.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed the proclamation yesterday at the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill. Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez sat beside him in the ceremony witnessed by Crime Stoppers' officials as well as local and federal law enforcers.

As part of efforts to protect tourists and tourism sites, Crime Stoppers board chair Rick Northen said the program pays a minimum of $500 for information leading to an arrest relating to crimes against visitors and tourist areas.

"With the challenges of our economy all around us, only the residents of the CNMI can ensure our visitors' safety and enjoyment and then tell others about the beauty of the CNMI," said Northen in reading the proclamation.

Whether it involves violence, robbery, drugs, weapons, or human trafficking, all people in the CNMI have a vested interest in reducing crime, he added.

Northen said the CNMI still has over 20 unsolved homicides, while burglaries and copper wire thefts continue to rise. "DPS needs information from the public to help solve these and countless other crimes," he said.

Arenovski also announced that DPS Commissioner Santiago Tudela appointed three months ago Police Officer 2 Jason Tarkong as the new Crime Stoppers coordinator.

"Jason has a great base for law enforcement. He's known by many people," Arenovski said.

He said they are very happy with the appointment because Tarkong will be a big boost to the program.

Tarkong said he is thankful to Tudela for giving him the opportunity to prove himself as the Crime Stoppers coordinator.

"It is a challenge," Tarkong said.

Meanwhile, Becky Benavente, Pacific Islands Club executive assistant to the general manager, donated $2,000 yesterday on behalf of PIC to Crime Stoppers' annual fundraising softball tournament.

"We're donating as part of PIC's community involvement. We are very proud to be part of NMI Crime Stoppers because they do help make our islands safe, not only for the guests but also for the community," Benavente said.

Saipan Health Fair set Jan. 31

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several activities are being organized for the community in observance of the ongoing National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.

Culminating these different activities will be the Saipan Health Fair on Jan. 31 at the Garapan Fishing Base, starting at 7am until 1pm.

Every Saturday beginning Jan. 7, celebrity baggings will be held at all Joeten Supermarket locations and Dolphin Wholesale, where children and their families will enjoy a lot of fun.

Also every Saturday, listeners of three radio stations—Power 99, 101.1 FM and Magic 100.3—can answer trivia questions and win exciting prizes.

On Wednesdays, the public can join the candle light health walk from 5pm to 6pm.

There will also the Cervical Cancer Awareness Roadside Waving on Jan. 30 at the Commonwealth Health Center Children's Clinic.

This activity is set at 4:30pm to 5pm.

The public is advised to visit the education booths located at various government and private agencies around the island.

The education booths include informational materials about the need for women to undergo cervical cancer prevention methods like the Pap Smear Test.

Data shows that cancer is the second leading cause of death in the CNMI women and third for men.

According to the 2008 health data report that was released in December by the Department of Public Health, there is a high rate of cervical cancer in the CNMI.

The report said that every seven weeks a woman in the CNMI is diagnosed with cervical cancer.

Issuance of burning permits resumes at DPS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela has lifted the suspension of the issuance of burning permits.

In a memorandum issued Wednesday to DPS Fire Prevention Section officer-in-charge Lt. Kevin Aldan, Tudela directed that open burning will now be allowed, in accordance with the Uniform Fire Code, effective immediately.

Tudela did not explain in the memo the reason behind the lifting of the suspension, but instructed Aldan to work with DPS public information officer Lei Ogumoro to advise the public of the new directive.

At yesterday's press conference, Firefighter 2 Dan Suel said Tudela lifted the suspension because DPS heard a lot of issues such as people having a hard time taking their debris to the transfer station.

Suel, however, emphasized that the burning permit still has restrictions on what can and cannot be burned.

"If we find people who are burning plastics [which is prohibited in the burning permit] we will stop that," Suel said.

Last September, then acting DPS Commissioner Dolores San Nicolas suspended the issuance of burning permits as well as all previously issued permits due to complaints that smoke emissions could pose a danger to public health.

DPS also suspended the open burning of trash or vegetation.

Suel said Tudela gave them a memo that directed them to go ahead and start issuing burning permits to agricultural and residential areas.

"We are to strictly enforce the permits, most especially in residential areas or where the houses are very close to each other," he said.

He said they will strictly enforce rules on the fire's distance from homes and the height of the pile of debris that could be burned.

He said people who want to get more information about the burning permit should call the Fire Station in Susupe at 664-9003 or 4.

Suel also disclosed that maybe after Jan. 20, 2009, DPS will start charging a $5 burning permit fee.

He added that people should be cautious when burning, especially during the dry season from January to July.

Chamorro dictionary panel discusses entries

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The committee that is working on a three-year project to revise the 33-year old Chamorro-English Dictionary have started discussing the main entries of the dictionary.

These parts include the Chamorro word, its parts of speech, its English definition, one or more Chamorro sentences illustrating its use, other pronunciations and related words such as synonyms.

The committee met for the second time yesterday at Building N of the Northern Marianas College in a teleconference participated in by Dr. Sandy Chung of the University of California Santa Cruz. Discussions focused on the parts of speech.

"We're working on to improve the first edition for the next generation to use and understand more fully," said Dr. Elizabeth Rechebei, one of the main resource persons coordinating the project, along with Dr. Rita Hocog.

One of the revision committee's goals is to make sure that every word should have a part of speech, unlike the original edition authored by Donald M. Topping, Pedro M. Ogo and Bernardita C. Dungca.

The 336-page document was published in 1975 by PALI Language Texts: Micronesia.

There are three main reasons why the revised parts of speech will be better: every word will have a part of speech (no word will be unclassified), more detailed (it says more about how a word is used), and the revised list makes a connection to parts of speech in other languages.

"It's a very complex process. The Chamorro language has some connections with other foreign languages such as Spanish, English, Chinese and even Pilipino. We have to take into consideration the richness of the language," Rechebei said.

She said that since language evolves, they have to create as many examples as possible for children to comprehend.

Critical component of the project will be the inclusion of new entries with emphasis on cultural words that are not in the original dictionary, to be undertaken by cultural experts.

Experts in areas such as traditional fishing, customs and rituals, traditional medicine, etc., have been identified to serve as possible consultants.

Upon completion of all the new entries and revisions during Year Three, another group of Chamorro language experts, particularly the elders, will be consulted on specific words and meanings, as needed.

During yesterday's meeting, NMI Humanities Council executive director Antonio Deleon Guerrero delivered a short message to the committee members followed by the report on the progress of the various working groups activities.

The committee is divided into working groups from six areas: Atu Asi, Ginifi, Sussupe, Langat, Luta (Rota), and Daddao (Tinian).

The project is a major part of a grant awarded to the Humanities Council by the National Science Foundation for a three-year collaborative project to study and help preserve the Chamorro language.

Members of the committee to revise the Chamorro –English dictionary, led by Dr. Rita Hocog, right, listen to Dr. Sandy Chung from the University of California Santa Cruz during a teleconference yesterday at Room 5 Building N of the Northern Marianas College.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Kilili selects Education, Labor subcommittees

Northern Marianas Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan will be deeply involved in the reworking of the No Child Left Behind law this year. Sablan selected the Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee yesterday during an organizational meeting of the Education and Labor Committee Democrats.

Sablan also chose the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, which has responsibility for minimum wage legislation, occupational safety and health, and federal employees' compensation issues.

"I am very happy to have been able to get a place on two subcommittees that are so directly involved in federal laws affecting our people and the health of our economy," said Sablan.

The No Child Left Behind Act—up for reauthorization by Congress this year—provides federal funds for schools, and also establishes accountability standards.

"It is very important that our schools meet high standards. At the same time we have to make sure that any standards take into account our particular local circumstances," said Sablan. "And we also have to make sure our schools get all the federal funding they need to meet those standards."

The Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee is chaired by Dale Kildee (D-MI).

Workforce issues important to the NMI are among Sablan's key areas of interest. Federal minimum wage law was applied to the Marianas in 2007 with a requirement that the wage increase by 50 cents every year until reaching the national minimum wage. As a member of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, Sablan will be able to focus federal attention on the affect these steady increases are having on the NMI economy.

The Workforce Protections Subcommittee is chaired by Lynn Woolsey (D-CA). ***(PR)***

SCS HONOR ROLL

The following is the Saipan Community School's honor roll list for the 2nd Quarter:

"A" HONOR ROLL (3.50-3.99)

6th grade, Jee Hyun Lee, Alina Yoon, Lydin Johnson
7th grade, Ericka Garcia, Kanani Lee
8th grade, Justin Poon, Ji Min Ryu, Francisco Camacho

"B" HONOR ROLL (3-3.49)

6th grade, Han Mil Oh, Pedro Tenorio, Seiya Eda, Rena Son, Candice Reyes, Steven Choi, Xuan Jun Lu, Phillip Yoon
7th grade, Eron Constante, Enoch Jr. Kim, Valentine Paik, Magdiel Corpuz
8th grade, Yeo Jin Lee, Sabina Calvo, Jonelie Torres, Hee Jin Cho, Victoria Reyes

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 16, 2001

EAGI probes charges vs Wiseman

The powerful Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations will closely examine allegations leveled against lawyer David A. Wiseman before confirming his nomination as Superior Court associate judge. "I'm not going to take them lightly. These are serious allegations that the committee should look into," said EAGI chair Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano yesterday. He disclosed the committee would decide later this week to set a confirmation hearing where Mr. Wiseman would be afforded an opportunity to respond to the accusations. "That will be the most appropriate time for him to answer these allegations and we owe him to hold a public hearing on the appointment," added the senator from Tinian.

Group urges use of tobacco funds in fight vs smoking

An official of an independent health foundation yesterday urged the CNMI government to use the tobacco settlement fund to carry out a comprehensive prevention and education campaign against tobacco consumption on the islands. Dr. M. Lyndon Haviland, Executive Vice President of the Washington-based American Legacy Foundation, said there is a need to use the fund only to implement a comprehensive tobacco control program that will address the enormous health and social costs associated with tobacco consumption. Ms. Haviland's campaign came at a time when the legislature was seeking an explanation from the Department of Finance whatever happened to the $800,000 received so far by the CNMI government as its share from the multi-billion dollar tobacco settlement agreement.

January 16, 2002

Consortium eyes casino on Saipan

Despite the constitutional ban on gambling, talks about the establishment of a casino on Saipan is being revived with the entry of a group of American, Japanese and Korean investors who are reportedly eyeing Saipan as a possible site for such a project. This was learned after a group of American, Japanese and Korean investors led by Dr. Benjamin L. Armstrong paid House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider and Sen. Pete P. Reyes a courtesy visit yesterday morning. According to Reyes, the consortium's representatives were contacting members of the Legislature, particularly the members of the Saipan delegation, "to ask for support in introducing legislation allowing Saipan to operate a casino."

Babauta names acting department heads

As his first order of business, Gov. Juan N. Babauta issued two memoranda assigning acting heads to different departments and agencies of the CNMI government. In both memoranda dated January 14, the new Governor appointed nine persons in all to take over as department heads in an acting capacity. These were Ramona V. Manglona as acting Attorney General; Frank Villanueva as Acting Secretary of Commerce; Joaquin A. Tenorio as acting Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources; Jeff Camacho as acting Secretary of Labor and Immigration; Santiago Tudela as acting Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety; John S. Reyes as acting Secretary of Public Works; Joseph Kevin Villagomez as acting Secretary of Public Health; Thomas Tebuteb as acting Secretary of Community and Cultural Affairs; and Robert Schrack as acting Secretary of Finance.

January 16, 2003

Govt on edge of financial abyss

Talk about tough. With some $12 million in payroll expenses every month, the $12 to $13 million in revenue that the government earns monthly goes in large part toward meeting payroll costs, leaving barely a few thousands to run the CNMI government. This dismaying reality all the more underscores the need for the government to cut costs wherever possible and it has already mapped out a three-pronged course of action: to maintain current expenditure controls, implement additional belt-tightening measures, and generate more revenue for the government. These points were stressed by Gov. Juan N. Babauta during a media briefing held yesterday morning at the Office of the Governor. The presentation, which lasted more than an hour, is expected to be replayed again and again in the next few days as Babauta goes from department to department, from agency to agency, to urge all CNMI government employees to pitch in the cost-cutting effort by voluntarily reducing their work hours by five hours per pay period.

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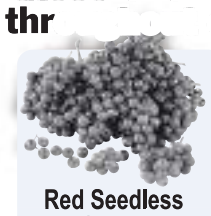

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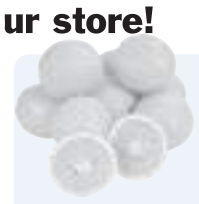

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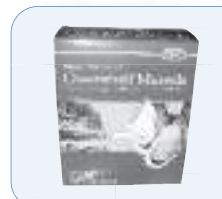

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

The Clinton connections

Hillary Rodham Clinton, whose confirmation as secretary of State is a foregone conclusion after a three-hour love-fest of a hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday, will probably do a fine job in the post—as long as her husband can keep his wallet zipped.

Former President Clinton's charitable foundation has the potential to haunt both his wife and the Obama administration, and not just because it has a history of accepting donations from tyrants and corrupt businessmen. Foreign governments, including Saudi Arabia, Australia, the Dominican Republic and Kuwait, have given millions to the Clinton Foundation, which might complicate Hillary Clinton's dealings with those countries—and could lead to a perception, justified or not, that one way to influence U.S. policy is to slip a few bucks to the secretary of State's husband's charity. Given the importance of perception in international relations, that's no small concern.

Bill Clinton has a troubling history of doing favors for his political donors, and although his charity's work is beyond reproach—it has contributed millions to fighting AIDS and climate change around the world—the foundation's connection to enterprises that personally enrich both Clintons is murky. Many of its donors also have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in speaking fees to the former president. Then there are highly questionable donations, such as the $500,000 he was paid by a Japanese American business for a speech he never gave, and that he later donated to the foundation, as reported in Tuesday's Los Angeles Times by Andrew Zajac.

The Obama administration struck a deal with the foundation aimed at improving transparency and avoiding conflicts, but it doesn't go far enough. Though the names of future donors will be released, it will be on an annual basis, and foreign governments will be subject to review by federal ethics officers only if they're new donors.

The best way out of this mess would be for Bill Clinton to divorce himself from all of his foundation's fundraising activities for as long as Hillary Clinton is secretary of State; he can consider it partial atonement to his long-suffering wife. If he won't, the foundation should at least reveal its donors in real time, as the contributions are received, and should follow a suggestion made Tuesday by Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., and forswear new foreign contributions. That won't end potential conflicts from U.S.-based donors with international interests, but it's a start.

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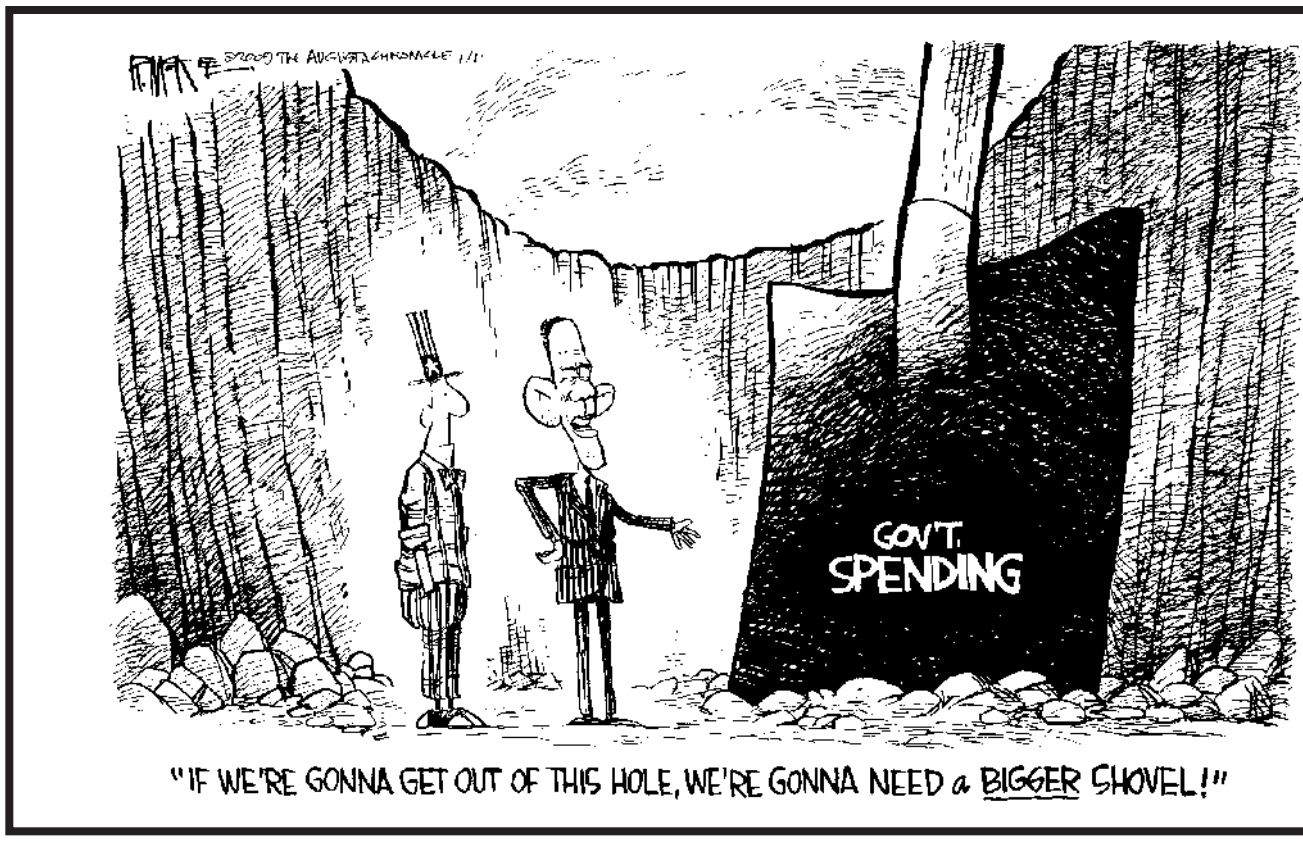


"IF WE'RE GONNA GET OUT OF THIS HOLE, WE'RE GONNA NEED a BIGGER SHOVEL!"

G_tting th_ngs d_ne

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

The Commonwealth might be small and off the beaten path, but it's actually an easy place to do business. I'm talking about the business-to-business realm. Most business are informal, able to get things done, and able to communicate effectively. It can, actually, spoil us.

Meanwhile, of course, the outside world is beckoning to be conquered via your notebook computer. We write about the promise quite often, but I think it's time for a grouchy, cynical swipe at some of the irritations of the gig. So here is my list of snotty observations to the outside world, or at least that slice of it that I deal with:

1. I'm not going on line to see eye-candy, or the precocious efforts of a Web designer who is a wannabe Steven Spielberg. So if your flash-laden, bling-intensive, business website builds slowly, or I'm reduced to having to look for a "skip intro" icon, I'm out of there.

2. If your Web site crashes my browser, goodbye.

3. On initial phone contact, I'll explain my request twice, to two different people, if necessary. That's fine. But, generally, I won't bother to go into it a third time with a third person. If your employees aren't able to, or authorized to, get basic things done when I contact them, then I'll go elsewhere.

4. I return my e-mail promptly. If you don't, then we're not going to be happy campers.

5. No, I won't fax it. Faxes were cool in the 1980s. So were hair bands. This isn't the 1980s.

In fact, my fax machine is at the bottom of the old San Jose dump, where it took up residence after some guy in Colorado sent me a 62-page printout of a spreadsheet.

6. You can be a business manager who gets things done, or a bean counter who doesn't, but you can't be both. If I authorize an expenditure over the phone, or via e-mail, then you'll get paid, so let's get on with things. If I say I wired money, then I wired money, so let's get on with it. If it takes a 10-page contract and a dozen petty, last-minute remittances for a small transaction, I just don't have time for it; go count beans on somebody else's time.

7. As for Internet-based "phone" calls: If y_u try to s_ve m_n_y by using Skype to c_ll me, and ev_ry oth_r s_ll_ble dr_ps out from the c_nnecti_n, then I'm g_ing to h_ng up. IT IS ANN_Y_NG. Want to talk on the phone? Then use a phone.

8. Please use a bank that doesn't stink. If your bank botches something, particularly an international transaction, then it can cause problems that snowball. All banks are not the same; in fact, they vary widely in quality.

9. Yahoo Messenger is better than phone calls in many cases, since it's easier to memorialize our discussions and we can send files back and forth.

10. I'm not a haggler. I know that some people enjoy calling themselves "tough negotiators," but I don't do business to try to chip other people down or to take advantage of them. I'll usually sidestep any transaction that looks like a lot of haggling will be involved. Anyone can be a petty little nitpicker and furtive one-upper, but they aren't the types of people I want to deal with.

11. Some economist observed that the role of the entrepreneur is to "get things done." That's sure the truth. I am amazed at how many people confuse "talking about doing things" with actually "getting things done."

On that note, the good news, locally, is that, yes, though Saipan has more than its share of talkers, everybody knows who they are, so they are no threat. But in the outside world, you have to keep your guard up.

Which pretty much wraps the whole gig up where we started. Getting things done at a business-to-business level on Saipan is usually easy, since you know who you're dealing with, and since island-style (again, I'm talking business, not government) usually keeps bluster to a minimum. But unlocking the potential of the outside world can involve frustrations. So when the world heeds my list, and improves its act accordingly, we'll all be better off.

R_ght?

Letter to the Editor

Five questions for the governor

An open letter to my District 4 Representatives: Joe Camacho and Justo Quitugua: The governor is personally and totally responsible for the management of CUC. He has others doing the work but, as Harry Truman said, the buck stops on his desk. I have five questions that I would like someone to ask him, just to get an update! All the questions have been pending for many years; the folks of the CNMI need some answers. You are working hard for us so I hope that you can help. The people of the CNMI should not forget these key problems at the CUC.

1) What progress has been made to lower line losses?

2) Has the program to switch CUC to low cost fuel moved forward?

3) Are accounts receivable under control and being reduced?

4) The repairs to the power plants, are they going to be completed this year (2009)?

5) Will the various "loans" and lawsuits be settled in 2009?

You two are in the position to formally put these questions to the governor in a resolution. I want the answers to come from him, not from one of his staff. He personally must stand up and take responsibility. We are lucky to have you two watching out for us.

Frank Stewart
via e-mail

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

To be or not to be 'real': That is the question

Mr. Jesse Torres' letter to the editor and the comments that followed thereafter prompted me to provide some insight into island residents' inability to vote for the U.S. president.

Our inability to vote for a U.S. president is not a legal matter but a "political" one. The two respondents' inferences about insular territories not paying U.S. taxes as a justification for not participating in the presidential electoral process is a bit exaggerated since the U.S. Constitution makes no mention of paying taxes as a prerequisite to voting for president of the United States.

The 24th Amendment, Section 1 states that: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President…shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax." In addition, there are over 43 million American citizens in the United States who do not pay or contribute to the federal tax system.

The U.S. Constitution also does not grant American citizens the right to vote for President. Article II, Section 1, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution provides: "Each state shall appoint, in such a manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of Electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which States may be entitled in the Congress…Electors appointment by the States elect President and Vice President."

The common argument for our inability to participate and vote in U.S. presidential elections is that the CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico and other insular areas are not states. Theoretically this would be true but the 23rd Amendment, Section 1 enabled citizens of Washington D.C. to appoint electors who would "be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by the State…"

For those who are not aware of it, Washington D.C. is not a state. Although the citizens of the District of Columbia participate in the presidential and vice presidential electoral process, they too, like the CNMI and other insular areas, have a non-voting delegate in the House of Representative and no U.S. senator.

The stateside writer from Washington D.C. also lamented two points regarding the federal assistance that we as insular territories receive in comparison to other states and our CNMI land alienation rights. The title of his letter, *'Real' Americans pay U.S. taxes and prohibit race-based rights*, was as divisive as his analogy about Mr. Torres and other locals having an 8th grader's insight into American politics.

First, it's a common practice for detractors to focus attention on the amount of federal monies insular territories receive in comparison to the states. Let's deviate from insular territories and redirect our attention to where "real Americans" have been focusing their attention on—Iraq! Iraq receives more federal monies than all insular areas combined. To be specific, Iraq receives the most federal financial assistance topping over $100 billion while recording an amazing over $80 billion surplus. This amount does not take into account the millions of dollars other foreign countries receive from the United States.

Second, laws granting land alienation have prevailed in equal protection challenges (Wabol v. Villacrusis 958 F. 2d 1450 9th Cir. 1990) in federal courts. Courts saw justifications in the constitutionality of the land alienation laws since they played a crucial role in preserving CNMI, American Samoa and American Indians' unique indigenous cultures.

The people of the CNMI, as with other insular areas, are but part of the over 4 million people faced with the grim fact that, in choosing a Commonwealth status or remaining with the status quo (Guam), we had in essence sealed our fate with an "indefinite" colonial status under the control of the U.S. Congress.

We must be cognizant that the CNMI and other insular areas will always have critics but we must maintain a steadfast approach in achieving a more defined or better political status that addresses and fulfills the needs of the citizens of each territory.

Justice Harlan in a dissent wrote: "The idea that this country may acquire territories anywhere upon the earth, by conquest or treaty, and hold them as mere colonies or provinces—the people inhabiting them to enjoy only those rights as Congress chooses to accord them—is wholly inconsistent with the spirits and genius, as well as with the words, of the Constitution."

Danny Aquino Jr.
Susupe, Saipan

Getting the facts straight

About John Del Rosario's foolish attack, it's important to correct him because he has gone way too far from reality.

Firstly, public land is owned by the government and Department of Public Land through its predecessor Marianas Public Land Corp. mistakenly acquired private land without thorough research of existing land documents even with the knowledge of land claims and complaints made by private landowners. Department of Public Land then leased the land to businesses to earn income for its operations. Sweet deal! This is government corruption at its best.

Secondly, DPL is mandated by law to administer the land compensation program for private land takings by the government. Therefore, DPL is responsible to seek funds to comply with the law. That is the DPL Secretary's responsibilities, not writing egotistical letters to the editors and deferring to the Legislature to do his job.

Thirdly, DelRosario needs to refresh his memory about Antonio S. Camacho's case with the federal court. In Mr. Camacho's case, Judge Alex R. Munson stated in his order, and I quote, "The failure of the Legislature to fulfill its constitutional mandate does not, cannot, and will not prevent the court from taking all necessary steps to ensure that its judgments are enforceable."

Even though DPL urged the federal court to defer to Commonwealth law and agree with them that Camacho has no means to enforce the judgment without an appropriation by the Legislature, the judge concluded, and I quote: "overwhelmingly in favor of protecting the independence of the federal judiciary and of providing federal litigants in the Commonwealth a meaningful, timely avenue to collect judgments."

In other words, your time is up, Mr. Secretary, from making excuses and start figuring out how to make payments DPL owes the heirs of Rita Rogolifoi, because your job mandates that you do what the court tells you to do.

As far as Rosario's redundancy theory is concerned, let it be known that MPLA took the case to court, not the other way around, even after I tried to negotiate a settlement with them. And let me make this clear to Rosario: that no judge will ignore the other parties' request to halt the case when a settlement is agreed upon, before, during, and after the case is heard. It is just absurd to think that a judge will continue hearing the case even after one or both parties inform the court of a settlement.

In passing, get your facts straight, Mr. Secretary, because all the big words you use clouds your poor memory and distorts the facts of this important matter. Please use simple words instead.

Enrique K. Seman
Heirs to Rita Rogolifoi, Kagman, Saipan

Clarification

Several issues were taken out of context in the story *Marpi homestead applicants surpass number of lots.* They are:

1. Total number of homestead lots on Saipan between Koblerville, Capital Hill and Marpi is 1,478. There are 3,400 residential homestead applicants.

2. Homestead recipients for Tinian and Rota would be allowed use of a septic tank per specifications by the Division of Environmental Quality and after an inspection of the soil is completed. Neither island has a sewer system.

3. DPL will extend the period required of homestead applicants to build the first family home from three to six years for Tinian and Rota. We take into full view the difficult economic times and the extension is a realistic approach at this juncture.

4. A lot of the applicants from Tinian and Rota are self-employed, thus the decision to accommodate this situation. The gradual building of the first family home fits this situation realistically.

The issuance of Tinian homesteads is likely to occur during the first half of March when all pertinent administrative and requisite documents are completed. DPL would be issuing an Invitation for Bids for the Koblerville Homestead development before month's end. Thank you for the opportunity to clarify these issues.

John S. DelRosario Jr.
Secretary, DPL

Paperless CUC billing

I wish to make a public comment on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. I have been on island for very few months, but I am concerned that the CUC is squandering valuable funds in the billing and collection of charges for utilities use.

I was in the Joeten Dandan CUC Office today and was told by a clerk there that it is impossible for CUC to send billing statements by e-mail or to pay by Internet. I took a quick glance around at the office and counted eight computer consoles in the customer service area alone. The postage required to notify utilities customers has to add up to some significant number of dollars each month. How can this entity accept a credit card payment in one room and deny the use of the same type of technology in notifying customers of their bill? If only a fraction of the islands' residents chose the "Green Method" of paperless billing, perhaps the savings could go toward an upgrade to the generators and infrastructure which fail almost daily. The reduction in physical face-to-face transactions could help the CUC staff to become a bit more efficient in handling those customers needing service. Maybe CUC could even use the cash to buy renewable energy producing equipment, such as solar panels and wind generators.

This time of global economic hardship that we are all experiencing calls for innovating thinking and sensible change. Perhaps my opinion will be heard in this venue. Thanks for you consideration.

David E Johansen
via e-mail

A challenge for anyone running for governor

The year 2009 is going to be an interesting gubernatorial election year. We challenge any candidate vying for the executive seat on the following:

1. Will you prosecute any public official or incumbent governor if misdeeds are found to have been committed while in public office?

2. Will you prosecute white-collar crimes, government corruption and government abuse regardless of who is involved?

3. If elected, are you going to follow the traditional way of covering up ones misdeeds in public office simply because he or she is family or a close constituent?

4. Do you have the courage and commitment to take on the impossible, without fear of reprisal or retaliation from political parties or constituents?

5. Finally are you honest and committed enough to run for the Executive Branch? Are you for the people or are you for yourself?

If you do not posses all of the above then you have no business in public office, especially as commander and chief of our homeland.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Hold it!

Where are all of these nonresident workers who are being allowed to register for jobs with the Division of Employment Services going to find jobs in this economy. Many U.S. citizens and residents who are not able to find work themselves are wondering.

Not surprisingly, allowing nonresident workers to register for nonexistent jobs embodies the CNMI's generous labor policy as regards its nonresident (guest) workers, a policy that has ironically been detrimental to U.S./resident workers as far as wages and benefits are concerned. For example, where are the medical benefits that are supposed to go to resident hires as embodied in the recently passed CNMI Employment Act?

Now, before Labor goes on to approve two-year permits to the thousands of nonresident workers, shouldn't they first make it a point to make certain that no local resident who wants a job is without a job? It would be a travesty to have hundreds of U.S. citizens unemployed while nonresident workers are working?

And hurry up, and give us some benefits just like our nonresident workers. Surely, benefits that are good to our guest workers are probably just as good for us resident workers. As they say, what is good for the goose is good for the gander.

Silech Terei
Upper Navy Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

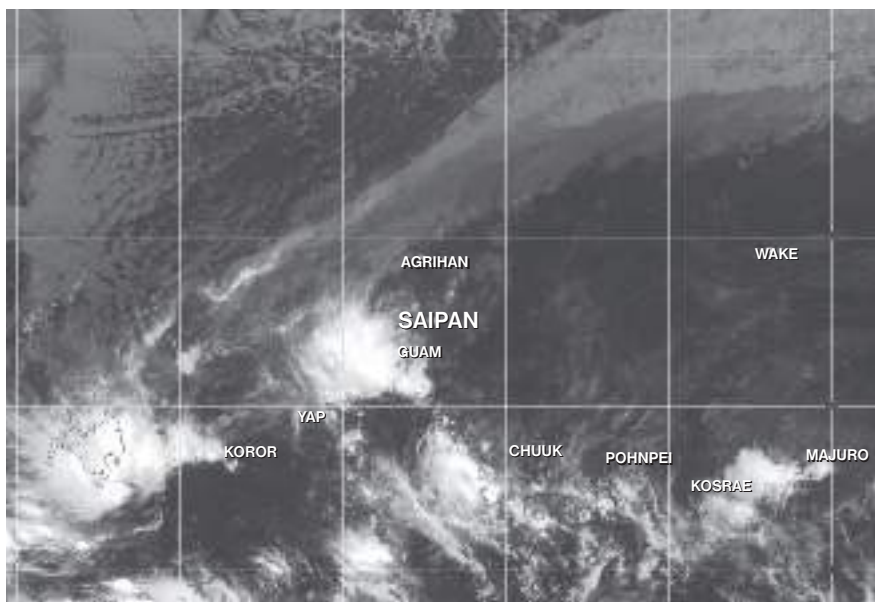
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲83	▼75
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲89	▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲83	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲77	▼66
Beijing	Cloudy	▲34	▼23
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲66	▼61
Honolulu	Rain	▲79	▼67
London	Cloudy	▲46	▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲82	▼50
Manila	Cloudy	▲86	▼70
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼47
Miami	Showers	▲68	▼50
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲14	▼ 7
Osaka	Sunny	▲45	▼34
Paris	Cloudy	▲39	▼33
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼31
Rome	Sunny	▲53	▼36
Salem	Cloudy	▲51	▼29
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼45
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲39	▼25
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼31
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲32	▼15

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, JAN. 15, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs southwestward from 25N160E through the Northern Marianas at 20N145E to beyond 130E at 10N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. A surface trough west of Guam extends southward from 13N142E to 8N142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and up to 100 miles west of the trough between 10N and 13N. Scattered trade-wind showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near Palau between 7N and 10N from 130E to 137E. A near equatorial trough south of Palau extends eastward from 4N130E to 4N140E then turns southeastward to EQ150E. Scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles south of the trough axis. Scattered trade-wind showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 70 miles of a line southwest of Chuuk from 8N145E to 5N148E to 3N152E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 200 miles of a line from 1N160E to 4N170E to 5N176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:16AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:47AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
6:25PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:44PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47AM	6:07 PM
Saturday	6:47AM	6:07 PM
Sunday	6:47AM	6:08 PM
Monday	6:47AM	6:08 PM
Tuesday	6:47AM	6:09 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:03PM	10:27AM
Saturday	11:35PM	11:05AM
Sunday		11:44AM
Monday	12:46AM	12:24PM
Tuesday	1:38AM	1:07PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Winter Festival of Runs draws int'l media to Saipan

The Winter Festival of Runs on Saipan tomorrow, Jan. 17, has both athletes *and* international media running, as five Japanese and Korea media outlets arrive to cover the event, bringing over $140,000 in additional exposure value for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Body +, a monthly magazine in Japan targeting men and women in their 20s and 40s, arrived early yesterday morning, Jan. 15, to prepare a six-page feature for their February 2009 edition. The magazine will reach 70,000 readers with an article exploring Saipan from the angle of sports, beauty and health. In addition to the Saipan marathon, the article will also feature hotels, spas, and local food.

Representatives of *Running Style*, a bi-monthly magazine reaching 100,000 readers of the same target market in Japan, also arrived yesterday. Their March 2009 edition will seek to convey "the message of excitement of running" and will introduce the running event, provide running "how tos" and introduce running fashion through the Saipan marathon experience. Along with the event feature, *Running Style* will also cover spas, hotels, and local foods in Saipan.

Japan newspaper *Nikkan Sports* and two Korean newspapers will arrive today, Jan. 16.

Munhwa Ilbo (or "daily newspaper" in Korean) is sending reporter Byong-KiMin on assignment to report on the races. With a circulation of 500,000, *Munhwa Ilbo* is the only evening newspaper among the daily newspapers with nationwide circulation. Primary readers consist of well-educated collage graduates and white-collar workers.

Sports Seoul, one of the major sports dailies in Korea targeting young males in their late teens to mid-20s, is sending reporter Jung-Ran Kim to cover the festival. *Sports Seoul* has a daily circulation of 350,000 nationwide.

With the help of tour company Hana Tour, the reporters from Korea will also take time to cover and report on the excellent attractions to be found here. In addition to a full tour of the facilities at their Pacific Islands Club Saipan lodgings, the reporters will enjoy an island tour, a monster truck extreme off-road adventure through Saipan's jungle, an evening of shopping at DFS, and a choice of bottom fishing or a tour of picturesque Managaha Island.

"The Winter Festival of Runs is another excellent opportunity for international media to visit the Northern Mariana Islands and find out we have to offer as a travel destination," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Media coverage is an important part of the event's success, and we welcome visiting media just as we welcome our competitors."

The Winter Festival of Runs has already registered over 400 competitors for the full Saipan Marathon (42.195 km), a half marathon (21.079 km) and a 10k fun run along Saipan's tropical and scenic roadways. ***(MVA)***

Parking closed for Winter Festival of Runs

In support of the Winter Festival of Runs set for tomorrow, Jan. 17, roadside parking in Garapan will be closed on the outer southbound lane from the Department of Public Safety sub-station south to Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center from 3am to 12pm. DPS will be monitoring traffic and enforcing the no-parking zone during the event. The public's cooperation is appreciated.

PIKA! PIKA! PIKA! (HOT! HOT! HOT!)

Tinian prepares for its annual hot pepper fest

Things are heating up in the Northern Mariana Islands, and it's more than just the year-round tropical climate.

The island community of Tinian is busy planning for February's annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in honor of *donni sali*, a small but potent hot pepper that is indigenous to the island and packs a punch on the Scoville scale.

Tenorio

With the theme *"Pika! Pika! Pika!"* (or "Hot! Hot! Hot!" in indigenous Chamorro), the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be celebrated the weekend of Feb. 14-15, 2009, at Tachogna Beach.

Activities include cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dances and Hapi the clown. Sample a variety of local foods. Catch the *umang* (hermit crab) races. Make new friends by joining numerous sports activities, including beach volleyball and dragon boat races. The highlight of the festival will separate the meek from the mighty during the *donni sali* eating competition, itself.

"The gem of Tinian island, just like *donne sali*, is unique in the world," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "Both the island and the hot pepper it's known for leave a lasting impression!"

Tinian is a historical treasure to be discovered, from ancient Chamorro limestone pillars called Taga stones (within walking distance of the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival), to relics from the Japanese era of administration of the islands, to WWII ruins.

Tinian is accessible within minutes of the main island of Saipan via airplane or ferry, or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam.

For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Sales for duck race doing well

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Organizers of the first Duck Race for Cancer said their sales of rubber ducks are going "quite well."

Linsey Sosovec, sports manager for Pacific islands Club, reported yesterday total sales of $1,350 for 270 rubber ducks.

Organizers have allotted a total of 2009 rubber ducks to be used for the upcoming race on Feb. 21 at PIC's lazy river.

This event is part of the hotel's effort to raise funds for the fight against cancer.

Each duck costs $5, with the winner bringing home the grand prize of $1,000.

Sosovec said they are giving only one prize because the rest of the proceeds will be spent on the cause and not on prizes.

"We still have many ducks available as we are trying to sell 2,009 ducks. The community has been incredibly excited and supportive. I am hoping to sell out before the race," she said.

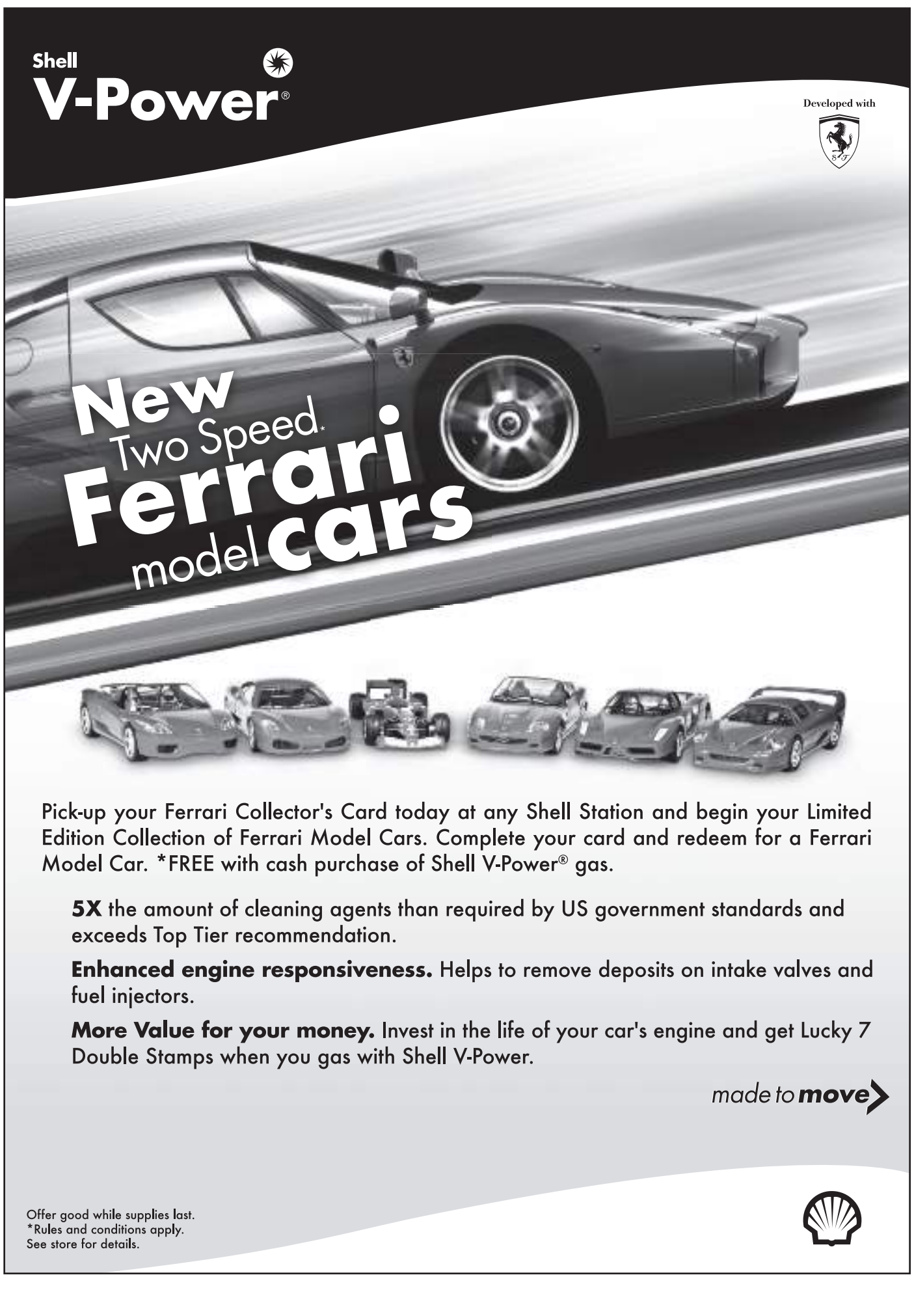
Sosovec said all buyers would keep their ducks after the race.

Each buyer will get a corresponding number for his duck and automatically qualify for the race.

Those who want to buy a duck may visit the PIC sports department for payment. Winners don't need to be present at the race in order to qualify for the grand prize.

All the proceeds from this event will go to the Marianas March Against Cancer.

During the race, the ducks will be launched from the Point Break slide. They will go down the slide and complete one revolution in the lazy river. The owner of the duck who crosses the finish line first will receive the grand prize.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Applications pour in for 'Best Job in the World'

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—One Greek woman promised to do all of Australia's laundry and pick up after the kangaroos. An Australian apparently had a tattoo advertising her love of the Great Barrier Reef etched onto her arm. And a few people just took off their clothes.

Desperate to snag what's being billed as the "Best Job in the World," thousands of people from across the globe have submitted video applications to the tourism department of Australia's Queensland state for its latest advertised vacancy—a 150,000 Australian dollar ($100,000) contract to relax on Hamilton Island in the Great Barrier Reef for six months while writing a blog to promote the island.

"Oh boy," an overwhelmed Anthony Hayes, chief executive officer of Tourism Queensland, said with a laugh Thursday. "What have we done?"

Response to the job has been mind-boggling, Hayes said, with more than a million unique visitors logging onto the Web site that advertises the gig since it was posted Monday. The department had to upgrade from its one original server to 10 to handle the volume of visitors to the site, which crashed earlier in the week.

On Thursday, a team of 10 people—whom, Hayes noted, were starting to look "pretty nervous"—were sifting through the 2,000 video applications the department had already received, with tens of thousands more expected before the Feb. 22 deadline.

In exchange for the plush salary, free accommodation in an oceanfront villa and airfare from the winner's home country, the employee will be required to perform such arduous tasks as strolling the island's white sand beaches, snorkeling its crystalline waters, and exploring other islands along the reef.

The job is part of a AU$1.7 million ($1.1 million) campaign to publicize the charms of northeastern Queensland state, and the employee will be required to post videos and photos on a weekly blog to help promote the area.

"The tourism industry is having a tough time at the moment," Hayes said. "So what we're really trying to do is drum up as much interest and as much passion for the place as we can."

The job's Web site shows many of the 60-second video applications received so far from all over the world, including Brazil, Romania, Switzerland, the United States and Turkey.

One Queensland woman's video shows her walking into a tattoo parlor and walking out with an apparent tattoo on her arm that reads, "I (heart) islands of the Great Barrier Reef."

A woman in Greece promises—via a scroll of words across the screen—to wash all of Australia's laundry and even clean up up after the kangaroos.

Another video shows a woman standing on a street belting out an original song. Some applicants simply stare at the camera and beg.

And then there have been videos that were simply too—shall we say, quirky?—to publicize, Hayes said.

"I guess we expected there'd be a certain percentage of nutters and nudies," Hayes said.

In May, officials will select 10 finalists to travel to Hamilton Island for an interview process, which will include sailing, snorkeling and psychological testing. An eleventh finalist will be chosen by the public, from a pool of 50 of the best applicants, whose videos will be posted online, Hayes said. The job begins July 1.

HOME-BOUND
Tom Blas poses with his unit in Iraq. These soldiers will be getting some R&R in February.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thousands flee flood in Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National/PIR)—More than 3,000 people living in a valley in a remote part of Southern Highlands province are displaced after their homes and food gardens were destroyed by flood.

Village leaders had reported the death of seven people since the Kemo River in Koroba swelled last October, flooding the Yaluba Valley where these Huli-speaking people live. The Kemo River flows into a cave, but a blockage had caused it to swell, flooding the valley and destroying houses, food gardens and tree crops.

The water trapped in the valley had become a lake, and water level was rising daily, villagers said.The death of the seven had been attributed to hunger and water-borne diseases. Hundreds of those affected from the Yalupa One and Yalupa Two wards, comprising the Ipa and Mata clans, had moved to higher ground at Kirerge, Penda and Kalomaya. Other clans affected included the Hiwa Koma, Pina, Topani and Akuane.

FORBIDDEN TREK HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A tourist with a beach towel on his head heads down the steep hill to the majestic Forbidden Island marine conservation area in Kagman, which can only be reached through a 30-minute trek or longer depending on one's pace. A guided tour of the area can cost tourists up to $95 each but local residents can access the place for free.

Vanuatu budget expert is nominated to World Bank

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—For the first time a person from Vanuatu, Betty Zinner-Toa, has been nominated to occupy a position at the World Bank.

The job would be based at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington D.C.

Zinner-Toa was nominated among other contenders for this position solely based on merit.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management on behalf of the Vanuatu Government has welcomed this nomination and fully supports Zinner-Toa in this position.

She will be occupying this position for the next two years and would be the representative of not only Vanuatu but other Pacific Island Countries as well in the World Bank.

Betty will be assigned to the Executive Director for Australia, Cambodia, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Her key responsibilities would be to provide briefing and support to the Executive Director and Alternate Executive Director in representing the members of the constituencies for Australia, Cambodia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu on the World Bank Executive Board.

24 Solomon islanders missing at sea

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Fiji Police have sent a distress team to sea after 24 people were reported missing in waters between the Lomaiviti Group and Viti Levu.

Police spokeswoman Ema Mua confirmed to FijiLive that the group was from Gau and was travelling to Suva.

"From the information we have, the group left Qarani Village this afternoon around 2.45 p.m. and had yet to reach its destination,"" she said.

She said the group consisted of 18 adults and six children. The youngest on board is a four-month-old baby.

Mua said police believed the group was drifting along Toberua Passage.

Police have urged members of the public not to take risks and stay on land and higher ground during flooding.

Mariners and people living along the coastal areas have been requested to keep an eye out for the missing group and report any discovery to the nearest police station.

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SALE $21.99 33 lbs.

Sun-Land Whole Young Chicken
SALE $32.99/case Limit 1

Pork Spareribs BBQ or Adobo Cut
$15.50 20 lbs.
SALE $17.99 25 lbs. Limit 2

Danish Baby Ribs
SALE $12.99 10 lbs. Limit 2

Pork Riblets
Limit 2
SALE $10.99/case

Beef Back Ribs
Limit 2
SALE $24.99/20 lbs.

Ground Beef
SALE $15.99 10 lbs.

Diamond G Calrose Rice
Limit 1
SALE $32.99 50 lbs.

Lotus Brand Rice
Limit 1
SALE $23.99 50 lbs.

Royal Thai Lady Rice
Limit 1
SALE $27.99 50 lbs.

Salad Oil
5 Galllon
Limit 1
SALE $26.99

Milk Fish
SALE $1.39 /lb.
$54.95/case

Tilapia
99¢/lb.
SALE $37.95/case

Ichiban
SALE $6.99 Beef Limit 1 Case
SALE $7.99 Original Limit 1 Case

Spam All Flavors
SALE $1.99/each Limit 1 Case

Black Label Luncheon Loaf
SALE $1.39/each Limit 12

Real Fresh Milk
Limit 1 Case
SALE $17.95 /case

Miller Lite
SALE $22.99/case Limit 1 Case

HITE Beer
SALE $14.50/case Limit 1 Case

FROZEN FOOD

Chopped Ham
SALE $17.99/10 lbs.

Gusto Smoked
SALE $1.99/lb.

Beef Rib Finger
SALE $2.89/lb.

Ground Pork
SALE $17.99/pkg.

Chamorro Sausage
SALE $3.99/pkg.

Miller Sausage
SALE $14.99/pkg.

Hoffy Portuguese Sausage
SALE $1.99/pkg.

Smoked Salmon Collar
SALE $25.99/10 lbs.

Family Bag Special

Pork Hocks	$8.95
Pork Belly	$10.95
Pork Adobo	$9.95
Pork Spareribs	$6.95
Pork Chops	$13.98
Beef Stew	$13.95
Beef Backribs	$8.95
Beef Shortribs	$15.95
Stewing Chicken	$5.95
Quarter Leg s	$5.95

Chicken Winggets
SALE $9.99/5 lbs.

Bar S Bacon
SALE $2.49/pkg.

Kam Yen Jan Chinese Style Sausage
SALE $3.49/pkg.

Turkey Tail
SALE $19.99/cs.

Bar S Jumbo Franks
SALE $1.05/pkg.

Hoffy Hot Sausage
SALE $5.99/5 lbs.

Marinated Milkfish
$4.99/pkg.
SALE Marinated Baby Milkfish $3.99/pkg.

Green Mussels
SALE $4.99/5 lbs.

Dragon King Shrimp 26/30
SALE $3.99/lb.

Vega Shrimp
SALE $4.99/lb.

PRODUCE

Potato (Jumbo)
SALE 79¢/lb.

Orange
SALE 89¢/lb.

Onion
SALE 59¢/lb.

Korean Pears
SALE $1.79/lbs.

Garlic
SALE 89¢ /pack-4 pcs.

Red Apple Cello
SALE $3.99/Bag

Banana
SALE 99¢/lb.

Cantaloupe
SALE $1.29/lb.

U.S. Eggs
Extra Large
SALE $2.09/doz.

GROCERY ITEMS

Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup
SALE 89¢

Hormel Chili (No Beans)
SALE $1.59

Hormel Corned Beef Hash
SALE $1.79 Sliced

Morton Salt
SALE 69¢

Coco Tuna
SALE $1.09

Beach Cliff Sardines
SALE 79¢

Ligo Sardines
SALE 3 for $1.00

Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce
All Flavors
SALE $1.29

Ox & Plam Corned Beef
SALE $2.29 Limit 12/each

Del Monte Kernel Corn
SALE 69¢

Del Monte Fruit Cocktail
SALE $3.99

Hosen Fruit Cocktail
SALE $3.95

Carnation Milk
SALE 99¢

Golden State Vinegar
SALE $2.99

Sugar
SALE $1.59/kg.

Sunflower Tuna
SALE $1.09/each

Armour Vienna Sausage
SALE 59¢/each

Coco Mackerel
SALE $1.29/each

Vlassic Dill Pickles
SALE $6.99 Whole
$5.95 Whole

Chamorro Punch
SALE $8.99

Water
500 ml.
SALE $5.95/case

Sunkist
All Flavors
SALE $5.95/case

Kool Aid
34 Qrt.
SALE $5.99

Ritz Soda
All Flavors
Limit 2 Case
SALE $10.95/case

Nestea
36 qts.
SALE $6.99

Kikkoman
Limit 1 Cs. (6pcs.1 cs)
SALE $3.79 1.6 lr.
$6.99 3 lr.

Fresco Cooking Oil
SALE $7.99

NON-FOOD

Adult Diapers
SALE $7.95

Bounty
8 Rolls
SALE $7.95

Toilet Tissue
10 Rolls
SALE $3.95

Soft & Gentle
24 Rolls
SALE $8.99

Jubilee Tissue
24 Rolls
SALE $8.99

Axxion Foam Plates
125 ct.
SALE $6.95

Sun Lighting Energy Saving Bulb
White 30W
SALE $1.99

Sun Lighting Energy Saving Bulb
White 20W
SALE $1.75

Top Detergent Powder
3 kg.
SALE $5.99

Gain Powder Detergent
120 Loads
SALE $16.99

Gain Liquid Detergent
SALE $4.99

Suavitel 64 oz.
SALE $4.99

Clorox
96 oz.
SALE $2.99

Joy Dishwashing Liquid 90 oz.
SALE $5.99

Safeguard Bar Soap
SALE 59¢/each

Fugo Candle Jar
SALE $11.95/each

Precious Moments Baby Wipes
Refil 80's
SALE $1.50

2pc Stainless Steel Tong
SALE $1.99

Toothbrush
4's
SALE $1.99

Care Bears Kids Toothbrush
3's
SALE $1.99

Disposable Razors
20's
SALE $1.75

Disposable Razors
10's
SALE 99¢

Disposable Razors Touch 3
2s
SALE $1.25

9" Cake Saver
SALE $2.50

Fresh Cup Coffee Filters
200's
SALE $1.99

Champion Door Knob
SALE $4.50

Panasonic Batteries
Size D & C 2's
SALE 75¢

Panasonic Batteries
Size AA 4's
SALE 75¢

Horse Shampoo
32 oz.
SALE $1.49

Sunsilk Shampoo Straighten Up Only
SALE $2.99

Butane Gas
Limit 2
SALE $21.99/case

Pensonic [220V]
3 in 1
Light
Fan
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SALE $39.95

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US military deploys aerial flares at FDM

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Force Marianas Guam, is warning the public that the U.S. military would be conducting aerial flare deployment on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla today, Jan. 16, 2009, from 9am to 6pm.

The location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to this activity, EMO is advising the general public—especially fishermen commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to take precautionary measures around this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and F Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

crime of The Week

Armed robbery

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on any of the person(s) responsible for the recent armed robbery at CYC Store in San Vicente or any of the armed robberies that occurred on Saipan:

Preliminary investigation revealed that on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2008, two masked male individuals entered the C.Y.C. Store in San Vicente and demanded money from the store's cashier. Both suspects were armed with knives and were described as wearing brown long sleeved shirts and khaki-colored masks. When another employee of the store came to check up on the cashier, a third suspect armed with a blunt object struck the male employee on the chest. The suspects then fled east on foot with an undetermined amount of money and store merchandise. This case is still under investigation.

Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. ***(NMI Crime Stoppers)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DEQ brigade sets COP cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point (Unai Dangkulo) on Feb. 7.

Thos who would like to volunteer may join the group on Saturday, Feb. 7, at 8am. Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Marianas High School schedule

Jan. 19	No classes (Martine Luther King Day)
Jan. 29	3rd-4th Period Exams
Jan. 30	1st-2nd Period Exams
Feb. 2	No classes (PSS Professional Development)
Feb. 11	2nd Quarter Report Card Day/Open House, 4pm-6pm (student released at 1pm, parents pick up report cards from Homeroom teachers)
Feb. 16	No classes (President's Day)
Feb. 17	No classes (PSS Professional Development)
Feb. 27	Cultural Day, 9am-3pm MHS Campus, Open to the public

For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Deadline set for filing quarterly tax returns

The Division of Revenue and Taxation is reminding all CNMI residents that the 2008 4th Quarter deadline for filing the quarterly tax returns is Monday, Feb. 2, 2009. The Division of Revenue and Taxation will be open from 7:30am to 6:30pm on Monday Feb. 2, 2009. The office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation is located at the Joeten DanDan Commercial Center. For more information call 664-1000, 664-1034 Compliance Branch, or 664-1065 Collection Branch. ***(PR)***

Bayani to host cultural show fundraiser

The Bayani Association will host and launch a Filipino Cultural Show called "Balik-Tanaw Sa Kulturang Pinoy" on Jan. 17, at 7pm, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

The two-hour cultural show and banquet dinner presents about 16 creative cultural dances that portray the Filipinos' regional culture, tradition and arts representing the Philippine islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The CNMI Guma' Ezperansa/Karidat is the chosen beneficiary for the net proceeds of the event. ***(PR)***

Vendors needed for Puengin Inetnon

The Kagman Community Association is looking for interested vendors to sell food, drinks, arts, crafts, clothing, produce, snacks, or other items at Puengin Inetnon. Puengin Inetnon is Chamorro for "A Night of Gathering". Puengin Inetnon will be Kagman's Friday Night Market and will be held every government payday Friday outside the Kagman Community Center. More vendors are needed. Call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for more info. ***(PR)***

Attention to families with disabilities on Tinian, Rota

The Family Hope Center under the CNMI Council for Developmental Disabilities and Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. would like to inform the community that the System Navigators would be traveling to Tinian and Rota to conduct interviews and follow up(s) with families with disabilities on the following dates:

Tinian Jan. 15-16, 2009
Rota Jan. 22-23, 2009

We are encouraging families with disabilities on Tinian and Rota to contact our offices at NMPASI, 234-7273/4 for Frances Torres or Dorian Camacho or CNMI DD Council for Lillian Ada at 664-7005/7000 or cell phone no. 287-5643 for an appointment. ***(PR)***

Additional English placement test scheduled

The Northern Marianas College has scheduled an additional English Placement Test date set for Friday, January 16, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Room A-6.

No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time. Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a $25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733 or 1242.

Registration for the Spring 2009 semester has been ongoing since Monday and will continue until Saturday, Jan. 17. ***(NMC)***

MLK DAY schedule

Jan. 16	Workshops at schools on Saipan;
Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Day

Forum: 1pm - 2pm;
Mini-March: 3pm - 4pm;
Program includes essay/speech finalists and keynote: 4pm - 6pm

Jan. 20	Workshops at schools on Saipan
Jan. 21	"Fulfilling the Dream" Inaugural Celebration Dinner; $15; Bud's Bar; 6pm-8pm. ***(PR)***

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PIC marks Russian Orthodox New Year's Day

For those who missed celebrating the traditional New Year's Day on Jan. 1, last Tuesday was the perfect opportunity to catch up on the revelry, with the celebration of the Russian Orthodox New Year's Day.

The event, hosted by Pacific Islands Club on Jan. 13, culminated a weeklong celebration that began Jan. 7, the Russian Orthodox Christmas Day.

PIC, known for celebrating diverse cultures such as the Loy Krathong Festival of Thailand, outdid itself Tuesday, with a themed party that had more than 200 Russian guests partying the night away island-style.

"We always do this for our Russian guests and every year we feature a different theme. This year, the theme is 'Celebration in a Chamorro Village,'" said Paul Dujua, PIC's Food and Beverage Administrative Assistant. "We have close to 200 who signed up for the party, not just our in-house guests but other Russians staying in other hotels."

In keeping with the theme, the Ironwoods Lawn adjacent to the Seaside Grill was fitted out with tents adorned with woven coconut leaves. Guests were met at the entrance with locally made beaded necklaces and a glass of aperitif. PIC also set up an activity tent, where its Club Mates taught Russian guests traditional arts such as weaving and making local handicraft.

PIC also brought in the Anuanua Dancers and the Icon Band to provide the all-night-long entertainment. Much to the guests' delight, the performances were interactive, with the dancers from time to time bringing guests to the dance floor for traditional contests such as hula dancing, coconut husking using one's teeth, and fire dancing. PIC's Yulia Aleksenko of the Guest Relations Department, who was the night's emcee, helped translate contest instructions.

The buffet tables themselves were groaning under the weight and variety of food prepared for the occasion. Although the names of the food were written in Russian, it didn't take much effort to identify them because they were divided into three sections: International, Russian, and Chamorro, giving the guests a chance to have a taste of local foods such as kelaguen, cucumber coco, red rice, etc.

The night was capped with a fireworks display that also had the guests popping party favors, toasting with champagnes, and blowing horns.

On Jan. 7, Russian Christmas Day, PIC hosted a formal dinner at the Magellan Restaurant, during which the Pacific Winds Ensemble and the PIC Club Mates performed for the Russian guests. ***(Jayvee Vallejera)***

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

The Anuanua Dancers play their instruments.

Two Russian guests attempt to peel the husk off a coconut using just their teeth, as an Anuanua dancer urges them on.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Different Russian dishes are on display.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

An Anuanua dancer shows this young Russian guest how to properly do the hula.

Swing to the left, swing to the right, this is how we do it, and you should do it right.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Two Russian guests attempt to swing their hips during the hula dancing contest.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Business

Recession pushes many to seek second jobs

By NANCY TREJOS
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Shelby Shenkelman enjoys working as a pricing analyst for a company that produces airline meals. At 25, she is making more than $50,000 a year.

"It should not be a bad salary," she said.

That is, unless you have $30,000 in student loans, a $300 a month car payment, some credit card debt, grocery bills that seem to be going up and rent that definitely is going up.

"I can survive on my one paycheck, but it's very, very difficult. It's very, very tight," the Reston, Va., resident said.

In December, she decided to take a second job. Two nights during the week and on weekend days, she works as a personal shopper at a clothing store, earning $9 an hour plus commission.

With a grim economic outlook for 2009, more Americans are not just cutting costs but are finding ways to make more money by taking part-time or odd jobs, employers and economists said. Many are doing it because their wages have stalled while the cost of living has gone up. Others are picking up extra work to pay off debt or cushion their savings. For others, it's a backup plan in case they get laid off from their full-time jobs.

In a survey of 1,400 workers by the staffing firm Express Employment Professionals, 42 percent said they were looking for a second job to make ends meet. In a Pew Research Center survey of 2,413 adults, 24 percent said they or someone in their household has taken an extra job because of economic troubles.

Meanwhile, staffing agencies across the country are seeing an uptick in the number of people seeking evening and weekend jobs, even if they are overqualified for them. And traffic is increasing for Web sites such as SnagAJob.com that specialize in hourly work.

"I think a lot more people are open to just doing any kind of job, maybe not specifically in the field they have been trained for," said Amy Little, branch manager of Manpower Inc., a national staffing agency. "They will just do anything and everything to make ends meet."

At a time when employers in many industries are scrutinizing every full-time employee, however, working a second job could have the unforeseeable effect of interfering with a primary job, human resources experts said.

"There's no question that there are times when you have conflict especially if you take a seasonal job," said Robert Trumble, professor of management at Virginia Commonwealth University and director of the Virginia Labor Studies Center. "Most people recognize that their secondary job is secondary. But you do have to recognize that you have moments of clear conflict. Maybe both (employers) are asking for overtime and you can't do it."

Workers should also be aware of the possible hidden costs of taking on extra work, experts said. For example, if you have children, a second job could require you to spend more on child care. Or you might have to pay more for transportation.

"Sometimes we find that people don't do their research, and the part-time job does not create the benefit it was meant to," said Joanne Kerstetter, president of Consumer Credit Counseling of Greater Washington, a division of Money Management International, which is the nation's largest nonprofit debt counseling agency.

Juggling two jobs has certainly been a challenge for Shenkelman.

"I have to leave my full-time job on time. I can't put extra hours in so I can make it to my part-time job," she said.

And she doesn't have as much time to spend with her family or friends. Nor is she sleeping as much as she used to. "I also do not get to do as much for myself, like just going to the Mall and walking around," she said.

But she is happy to have the extra income so she can pay her bills and have some semblance of a social life. "I didn't want to never have spending money, to never go out with friends or see a movie," she said.

For Nate Chenenko, having two jobs has made traveling on weekends more difficult.

"My free time has a much higher opportunity cost now: Taking a weekend trip costs me the price of the trip plus the wages lost from missing work at my part-time job," he said.

On weekdays, Chenenko dons a collared shirt, tie and dress slacks and heads to the Navy Yard where he is a contract specialist for the U.S. Navy.

On Thursday and Friday nights and on weekends, he switches to ski pants and a cap and drives people around Washington in a pedicab, or bike taxi. Since he started in October, he's been making about $19 to $23 an hour pedaling up to four people at a time to such destinations as Union Station and the White House. It's a big help, he said, especially considering that he is making about $40,000 a year, and that his grocery and utility bills have gone up.

"Instead of buying or purchasing expensive things, I'm trying to save," he said. "I took this to build up that safety net."

THE WASHINGTON POST

More Americans are not just cutting costs but are finding ways to make more money by taking part-time jobs. Allie Persinger, left, rides toward the Capitol in Washington with her mother, Debbie Persinger, in Nate Chenenko's pedicab. " … I'm trying to save. I took this to build up that safety net," Chenenko says of his part-time job.

Labor experts said you should avoid any conflicts with your primary employers by checking your employee handbook and making sure you are even allowed to take a second job. If a second job is permitted, be honest with your employer about your extracurricular work. And whatever you do, never do work for your second job while at your full-time one. Keeping that primary job should be a priority.

"When you can keep what you have, that's the easiest and the best," Trumble said.

Finding a second job might not be easy depending on the industry. Indeed, data released by the Labor Department showed that the unemployment rate rose in November to 6.7 percent from 6.5 percent in October.

But economists and labor experts said seasonal, temporary, weekend and evening jobs such as bartending are still out there. Jobs in health care or assisted-living facilities, for instance, are always available because people don't stop getting sick or growing old during recessions. Cleaning services also offer flexible evening and weekend work.

Second jobs don't have to be traditional either, said Mechel Glass, director of education for Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Atlanta. "What are some talents or skills you have that you can utilize to bring in additional money?" she said.

Take on sewing projects, tutor students, offer to cook for co-workers for a fee. If you sing, try to get gigs at weddings. If you like animals, walk dogs or do some pet-sitting.

If you love to shop, get a job with your favorite retailer where you would have the added benefit of getting discounts. If you know anything about traveling, electronics, movies or just about anything, you can write a review for www.reviewstream.com and possibly get paid for it, the credit counseling agency recommended.

Trumble, the human resources expert, said that during recessions, people also often turn to self-employment or direct selling for companies such as Avon, the cosmetics manufacturer.

Take Peggy Kelley, 60, who supplements her income from her full-time job as a minister at a Baptist church here by selling fragrances and recruiting others to sell products for LMS Fragrances.

Since June, she has been calling and e-mailing people, passing out fliers at restaurants and stores. In one three-week period, she made about $4,000. And she needed it. She is also a landlord, and some of her tenants stopped paying rent because they lost their jobs or had their hours cut. She exhausted her savings paying mortgages on four homes.

"In this market, everything has changed. People have lost their jobs. You get excuses from tenants," she said. "This is the worst economy I have ever experienced, and I am 60 years old."

Ron Cooper Jr.'s reason for starting a business was that the one he has been in for 11 years is in trouble. The Fredericksburg, Va., car salesman recently started the Stafford franchise of the national pet-waste-scooping business DoodyCalls.

"Obviously, in the auto business sales have declined over the past few years," the 32 year old said. "I felt it was a good time to try something new with a small business."

On evenings, he does advertising and bookkeeping. On Mondays, his day off from his full-time job, he scoops clients' yards. Overall, he said, he devotes about 15 hours a week to the business and has four clients. Prices start at about $14 a week for a normal-size yard and one dog.

He's counting on this: People might stop buying Corvettes, but they will always need to have their yards cleaned.

By LILY GARCIA
Special to The Washington Post

Garcia, whose column regularly appears on WashingtonPost.com, has offered employment law and human resources advice to companies of all sizes for more than 10 years.

Changing fields in a rocky job market

"I've been laid off from my job. I'm in my mid-forties. Is it really truly possible for a forty-something to change careers without going back to school and incurring thousands of student loan debts? Remember, there is no company to pay for my school and I need to be working again within six months. For those of us in the middle to lower rungs of the economic ladder, how feasible is a career change later in life?"

After 20 or more years on a career path, making a change is hard. The difficulty results from the fact that starting anew usually requires accepting a position at much lower seniority and pay. Even if you do go back to school, as you suggest, or retrain in another way, there is no getting around the fact that you lack the necessary direct experience to be considered for a new role commensurate with your years in the workforce.

You might be able to preserve some of your seniority by switching to a related or analogous field. Such arrangements are especially feasible for employees who remain within the same organization. For example, an accounting professional responsible for an organization's payroll might be able to transition into a position on the human resources staff that focuses on employee relations instead.

Pulling off such a move is more challenging if you are also switching employers. But it is not unheard of. The key to making yourself a viable candidate in a different, yet related, field is to demonstrate that you have the skills to do the job. Although you may not have performed the exact same job before, you can deconstruct your work experience into its component parts and then reconstitute it to form the necessary candidate profile.

Suppose you have worked your entire career in corporate internal audit departments. You have been responsible for theft and loss prevention and ensuring that appropriate controls are maintained. As part of your duties, you interview employees, review documents, and write reports. One viable career move would take you into the legal field. The duties of a legal assistant job include gathering and organizing documents, interviewing witnesses, conducting legal research and ensuring that legal procedures are followed. By drawing connections between your internal audit experience and the requirements of the legal assistant job, you might be able to persuade a hiring manager that you could do the job well even though you might have never set foot in a law firm.

As with all job applications, it can give a tremendous boost to your quest for a career in a new field if you know someone in the field who can vouch for you. In this sense, it helps to be a seasoned worker. The longer you have been working, the more people you know who have moved on to other jobs. If you have kept up with these former coworkers over the years, you might find that you have easy access to a robust professional network that can help to take your career in new directions.

Obama would spend bailout funds on housing crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Barack Obama would spend the remaining $350 billion of a financial bailout fund on expanded lending and reduced foreclosures and would not use the money to help other industries, lawmakers said Wednesday after discussions with Obama emissaries.

The Senate was set to vote Thursday on whether to release the money. Lawmakers insisted that Obama advisers put their assurances in writing before the vote.

Seeking to secure votes from wary members of both parties, Obama aides fanned out across the Capitol on Wednesday. Their lobbying effort culminated in a closed door meeting between Senate Republicans and top Obama economic adviser Larry Summers and incoming White House chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel.

The private guarantees went further than what Obama's team has been willing to discuss publicly about his plans for the second half of the $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program.

Obama has asked Congress for the money and has been trying to overcome misgivings from lawmakers over how the Bush administration spent the first half of the fund.

Democrats were growing increasingly optimistic that the Senate would agree to release the money to the new administration. And even reluctant Republicans praised Obama's outreach.

"These folks have much more credibility already than Secretary Paulson," Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., said, referring to the Bush administration's treasury secretary, Henry Paulson.

Still, Republicans demanded that the incoming Obama administration put in writing details of the conditions and goals for the money.

"There is a real concern that it's one thing to say it in the privacy of that room; it's another thing entirely to put something on the record," said Sen. John Thune, R-S.D.

While the criticism of the Bush administration's handling of the bailout has been bipartisan, Republicans were especially opposed to using the bailout funds to help out nonfinancial sector industries. Money from the fund has been used to assist insurance giant American International Group Inc. and automakers General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Summers and Rahm "did not represent they are in favor of industrial policy."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian stocks tumble on US retail sales, bank fears

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets tumbled Thursday, with Hong Kong's benchmark sliding more than 5 percent, on gloomy U.S. holiday sales and renewed concerns about the banking industry. Every market across Asian suffered steep declines, with broad-based selling hitting industries from energy to financials to exporters. The dollar slid further against the yen, and oil prices continued to fall on worries that the global economic slump will further weaken demand for crude. Sentiment was pummeled after a U.S. government report showed retail sales dropped 2.7 percent last month, more than double the decline economists had expected and providing alarming evidence that American consumers are slashing their spending.

Motorola to cut 4,000 more jobs in 2009

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mobile handset maker Motorola Inc. said Wednesday it will cut 4,000 more jobs in 2009, in addition to 3,000 it announced in October. The company said the move will save about $700 million a year starting in 2009, and total $1.5 billion in annual savings when combined with the previous cut. Most of the new layoffs will hit the mobile devices business, while about 1,000 jobs are tied to corporate functions and other business units. The move is the latest in cost-cutting measures by Motorola, which has been struggling to revive its business in recent years. When the cuts are complete, around 12,000 workers will have left the company since December 2007 when there were 66,000 employees, an 18 percent reduction. Last month, it announced it was freezing its pension plans and reducing executive pay. The Schaumburg, Ill.-based company also said Wednesday it expects revenue for the fourth quarter to be between $7 billion and $7.2 billion, as it saw continued weakness in consumer demand and customer inventory reductions.

Apple CEO Jobs backtracks on health, takes leave

SEATTLE (AP)—Apple Inc. co-founder and Chief Executive Steve Jobs said Wednesday he is taking a medical leave until the end of June—just a week after the cancer survivor tried to assure investors and employees his recent weight loss was caused by an easily treatable hormone deficiency.

Apple's stock plunged 7 percent.

Jobs, 53, said in a letter last week that he would remain at Apple's helm despite the hormone problem, and that he had already begun a "relatively simple and straightforward" treatment. But in an e-mail to employees Wednesday, Jobs backtracked.

"During the past week I have learned that my health-related issues are more complex than I originally thought," he wrote.

Apple's shares have surged and crashed over the last year in step with rumors or news about the CEO's health and his gaunt appearance. While the top executive's health is an issue for investors in any company, at Apple the level of concern reaches fever pitch because Jobs has a hand in everything from ideas for new products to the way they're marketed. treat a very rare form of pancreatic cancer—an islet cell neuroendocrine tumor—before alerting investors. That type of cancer is easily cured if diagnosed early, unlike the deadlier and more common adenocarcinoma.

Jobs

And last summer, Apple insisted Jobs' weight loss was due to a common bug, even as The New York Times cited anonymous sources who said Jobs had undergone "a surgical procedure" to address the problem.

Apple's chief operating officer, Tim Cook, will take over Jobs' responsibilities while he is on leave, though Jobs said he plans to remain involved in major strategic decisions while he is out.

Cook is seen as one of Jobs' most likely successors, along with Apple's top marketing executive, Philip Schiller.

"Tim Cook is a very experienced and highly regarded chief operating officer," said Calyon Securities analyst Shebly Seyrafi. "He's qualified."

Apple's shares slid $6.19, or 7.3 percent, to $79.14 in after-hours trading.

Oil falls to near $36 on weak US crude demand

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell to near $36 a barrel Thursday in Asia as rising crude inventories and falling retail sales in the U.S. provided investors with further evidence of faltering consumer demand.

Light, sweet crude for February delivery was down 98 cents to $36.30 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 50 cents overnight to settle at $37.28.

Prices have fallen 27 percent since last week and analysts say they may test a five-year low reached last month of $33.87 a barrel.

U.S. oil inventories have been rising for months, proof the current recession is biting into demand for crude products. The Energy Department's Energy Information Administration said Wednesday that crude inventories grew by 1.2 million barrels for the week ended Friday after jumping 6.7 million barrels the previous week.

Gasoline inventories rose by 2.1 million barrels and distillates increased by 6.4 million barrels.

"It just points to the doom and gloom in the American economy," said Gerard Rigby, an energy analyst with Fuel First Consulting in Sydney.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DPW-039

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 20, 2009 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"PEST CONTROL SERVICES - TRANSFER STATION AND MARPI SOLID WASTE FACILITY (MSWF)"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 04, 2009 AT DPW - SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TRANSFER STATION, CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE IN WRITING TO MR. BLAS T. MARNAS, ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOLID WASTE BY FACSIMILE TO (760) 322-2762, NO LATER THAN (FEBRUARY 09, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS)

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **DIEGO B. SONGSONG**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu, Website: www.nmcnet.edu

Invitation for Bid

NMC No.: IFB 09-008

CREES TINIAN FENCE LINE PROJECT

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Services Department (CREES) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and installation of Chain Link Fence and Gates for CREES Tinian Facility due on or before February 06th, 2009. In order to be considered for this transaction, all persons, firms or corporations responding to this request must provide information requested in the specifications and scope of work. **Any bid received that does not provide the requested information may be rejected**. Bids rejected will not be returned to the owner, but the owner will be notified.

DUE DATE/TIME: Friday, February 06th, 2009 10:00 a.m.
PUBLIC BID OPENING: Wednesday, February 11th, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Bid Packages are due February 06th, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC Procurement Regulations. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, **"Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement. This procurement is funded, wholly, from federal sources. For bidders located outside of the CNMI**: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita C. Camacho (acamacho@nmcnet.edu)

All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by the following:

Anita C. Camacho
NMC, Procurement Manager

Ross S. Manglona
Director, NMC CREES

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-056
DESK AUDIT

OPENING DATE: JANUARY 16, 2009 **CLOSING DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2009**

The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is requesting proposals from qualified individuals or companies to perform human resource desk audits of employees of the NMI Retirement Fund, Worker's Compensation Commission, and the Group Life and Health Insurance Program. To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax No: (670) 664-8080
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. RF09-055

OFFICE SPACE RENTAL – TINIAN

OPENING DATE: December 23, 2008 **CLOSING DATE: January 22, 2009**

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY PICK UP THE SPECIFICATIONS AT THE NMI RETIREMENT FUND OFFICE ON TINIAN, LOCATED IN SAN JOSE VILLAGE, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT CNMI HOLIDAYS).

Nation

Families await sharpest tuition rise in years

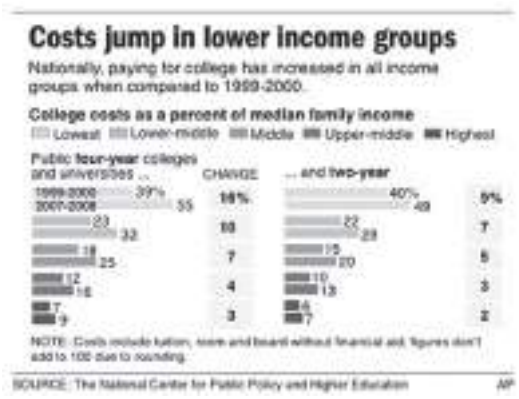
By JUSTIN POPE
AP EDUCATION WRITER

Most high school seniors and their families have not made final college plans for next fall. But they know this: It's probably going to cost more than they had planned.

Even in good economic times, states and colleges have largely failed to hold tuition increases in line with inflation. Now as the slumping economy forces states to slash spending, students can expect the sharpest increases in years.

Families are calling on colleges to absorb as much of the burden as possible instead of passing the extra costs on to students.

"In my business, my customers are asking me for price concessions," said John Schock of Raleigh, N.C., who works in sales for a company in the automotive industry and whose son is looking at colleges. He said colleges "have an obligation as well."


Costs jump in lower income groups
Nationally, paying for college has increased in all income groups when compared to 1999-2000.
College costs as a percent of median family income
Lowest Lower-middle Middle Upper-middle Highest
Public four-year colleges and universities
CHANGE
... and two-year
1999-2000 39% 55 2007-2008 23 32 18 25 12 16 7 9
18% 10 7 4 3
40% 49 22 29 15 20 10 13 6 7
9% 7 5 3 2
NOTE: Costs include tuition, room and board without financial aid; figures don't add to 100 due to rounding.
SOURCE: The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education
AP

Final prices will not be set until state budgets are finished in the coming months, but the trend is clear. In California, the governor's proposed budget would raise university fees around 10 percent. Florida's governor is trying to give several state schools more power to raise prices. And universities in both states plan to cut enrollment slots.

Other states could not wait until fall and have passed unusual midyear increases, including a whopping 14-percent increase in New York.

In previous recessions, state-supported institutions have raised tuition between 8 and 10 percent annually for several years running, said Nick Johnson of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington.

"This recession is worse. This state fiscal crisis is worse than last time, so we would expect state tuition increases to be larger than in past years," Johnson said.

Students could see some relief at private universities, which may have less room to raise prices without losing business or looking greedy. Augustana and Princeton are among schools that have already announced their lowest tuition increases in at least 25 years. Merrimack College and Benedictine University have announced freezes for next year.

But four in five American college students attend public schools.

Biting cold hits Northeast, keeps even skiers home

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—The cold wave that stunned the nation's midsection expanded into the Northeast on Wednesday with subzero temperatures and biting wind that kept even some winter sports fans at home. The wind chill hit 33 below zero during the night at Massena, N.Y., and the National Weather Service predicted actual temperatures nearly that low in parts of the region by Thursday night.

Winter-hardened people across northern New England bundled up amid warnings about how fast exposed skin can freeze.

"Anyone who sends their kid out today is out of the running for parent of the year," said Eric Friedman, a spokesman for Mad River Glen ski area in Fayston, Vt. A frostbite caution sign was posted at the ticket office, but few skiers were there to see it because of the 5-below-zero cold, Friedman said.

AP

Pedestrians walk into a stiff wind and blowing snow in downtown Chicago, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009, as a blast of sub-freezing temperatures and snow storms continue to plague the upper Midwest.

Schools from Iowa to Pennsylvania opened late so kids would not have to be out in the coldest part of the morning. Some schools closed.

"Awful," said University of Dayton student Lauren Weining, who put on two pairs of pants and three sweaters under her coat for a 10-minute walk to her job on the Ohio school's campus. "It's the longest 10 minutes I ever had this year."

No deaths were reported in the Northeast. A day earlier, a Wisconsin man died of exposure after wandering from his home; relatives said he was prone to sleepwalking. Poor visibility in blowing snow was blamed for a 20-car pileup that killed two people Wednesday in Indiana.

Mercifully, no major precipitation was forecast for New England. Parts of the region are still recovering from a Dec. 11 ice storm that tore down trees and power lines, cutting electricity to about 1 million homes and businesses in the Northeast-some for more than a week.

This was just arctic cold, the kind that numbs the face, kills car batteries and freezes unguarded water pipes. Residents of Ironwood, Mich., were told to keep faucets running to prevent freeze-ups after a major break left the city without water, said Gogebic County emergency services coordinator Jim Loeper.

White House: Audiotape shows bin Laden is isolated

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House said Wednesday that the recent audiotape believed to carry a message from Osama bin Laden reflects the "isolation" of the al-Qaida leader whose influence over the terrorist network has waned.

"Wherever he is, he's in a deep hole," Vice President Dick Cheney said in an interview Wednesday with PBS' "The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer." "He does not have much impact on the organization as best we can tell."

In a new message aimed at harnessing anger in the Mideast over the Gaza offensive, bin Laden urges Muslims to launch a jihad, or holy war, against Israel and condemned Arab governments as allies of the Jewish state.

The audiotape, posted on Islamic militant Web sites, was bin Laden's first since May and came nearly three weeks after Israel started its campaign against Gaza's militant Hamas rulers.

"It appears this tape demonstrates his isolation and continued attempts to remain relevant at a time when al-Qaida's ideology, mission and agenda are being questioned and challenged throughout the world," said Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the National Security Council at the White House.

"This also looks to be an effort to raise money as part of their ongoing propaganda campaign. The United States promotes an alternative, hopeful ideology while continuing to partner with over 90 countries to pursue terrorists wherever they are," Johndroe said.

The al-Qaida leader also vowed that the terror network would open "new fronts" against the United States and its allies beyond Iraq and Afghanistan. He said President-elect Barack Obama has received a "heavy inheritance" from President George W. Bush—two wars and "the collapse of the economy," which bin Laden said will render the United States unable to sustain a long fight against the mujahedeen, or holy warriors.

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

LUCIA M. DELEON GUERRERO ("Trustor"), on or about May 23, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 23, 1985, under Document No. 85-0991 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 20472-6, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 907 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2064/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND COMMISSION AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14154, ON THE 26TH OF MARCH, 1982.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$121,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

GINA K. SOMORANG/ SOLEDAD K. SOMORANG AND MIGUEL O. SOMORANG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about May 02, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 03, 1984, under Document No. 84-686 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 005 I 548, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 885 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYE'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232 DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$59,790.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

VINCENT N. ITAMAN/ ROSA L. TAMAN/ VINCENTE E. TAMAN (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 27, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 27, 1984 under Document No. 84-659 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 I 531, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 745 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232 DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$77,690.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

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ACROSS THE NATION

New Ill. Senate take steps toward governor's trial

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Hours after impeached Gov. Rod Blagojevich convened a new Illinois Senate and urged lawmakers to "find the truth," senators took the first steps Wednesday toward a trial to determine whether the governor is ousted from office for corruption and abuse of power. The Democratic governor presided over the first meeting of a Senate whose most urgent task is putting him on trial. He was greeted by silence as he entered the Senate chamber through a back entrance, took the podium without introduction and banged a gavel to call the session to order. He mostly stuck to the formalities of overseeing the ceremony during the hour or so he presided over the chamber. But as he handed the proceedings over to incoming Senate President John Cullerton, a fellow Democrat from Chicago, Blagojevich said he hoped senators would "find the truth and sort things out, to put the business of the people first."

Indiana money manager charged in Fla. plane crash

CHATTAHOOCHEE, Fla. (AP)—An Indiana investment manager who allegedly staged a plane crash to evade personal and financial ruin was charged Wednesday with intentionally downing the plane and faking a distress call, a spokesman for the U.S. Marshals said. The charges came a day after investigators tracked Marcus Schrenker, 38, to a campground in north Florida. He had apparently tried to kill himself by slitting his wrists and muttered the word "die" when federal agents discovered him bleeding from a slashed wrist, investigators said. Scott Wilson, a spokesman for the U.S. Marshals in the Northern District of Florida, said it isn't immediately known when Schrenker will appear on the charges because he is recovering from his wounds in a hospital. The saga started Sunday night, when military jets intercepted the plane after authorities received a distress call that claimed Schrenker's windshield had blown in. The plane later crashed in a north Florida bayou after traveling 200 miles on autopilot, authorities said.

Ex-cop charged with murder in Calif. shooting

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—A former transit police officer has been charged with murder for the fatal shooting of an unarmed and allegedly restrained black man in a racially charged case that has outraged residents and community leaders and set off violent protests. Newly released court documents allege that Johannes Mehserle, who was charged Tuesday, shot 22-year-old Oscar Grant while Grant had his hands behind his back and another officer was kneeling on his neck. Alameda County District Attorney Tom Orloff made the rare decision to file a murder charge against a police officer for an on-duty incident. "At this point, what I feel the evidence indicates, is an unlawful killing done by an intentional act and from the evidence we have there's nothing that would mitigate that to something lower than a murder," Orloff said at a news conference. He said he would not speculate on whether the charge would end up being first-degree murder or second-degree murder.

NJ kids with Nazi-inspired names removed from home

HOLLAND TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—Three New Jersey siblings whose names have Nazi connotations have been placed in state custody, police said. The children, ranging in age from 3 to under 1, were removed from their home Friday. They drew attention last month when a supermarket bakery refused to put the name of the oldest—Adolf Hitler Campbell—on a birthday cake. State workers didn't tell police why the children were taken, police Sgt. John Harris said. A spokeswoman for the state Division of Youth and Family Services, Kate Bernyk, said she would not comment on any specific case, but she said the state would not remove children from a home simply because of their names. A family court hearing is scheduled for Thursday. Court officials said the matter is sealed and they could not release information about what might be decided at the hearing. The other two children, both girls, are JoyceLynn Aryan Nation Campbell and Honszlynn Hinler Jeannie Campbell.

No credible terror threats seen for Super Bowl

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—A U.S. intelligence report says there is no credible threat of terrorist attacks at the Feb. 1 Super Bowl, but police said Wednesday that visitors should still expect the type of heavy security typical of every Super Bowl since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. While no specific threat was identified, a joint FBI and Homeland Security intelligence assessment obtained by The Associated Press cautions that Raymond James Stadium, the Super Bowl site, does not have the typical security features of permanently secure buildings, such as jails or military bases. However, the report noted, "the visible presence of hundreds of well-equipped security officers, standoff barriers and other security measures likely will serve as deterrents to attack." Tampa police spokeswoman Laura McElroy said Raymond James Stadium is as secure as any other NFL venue and noted that local law enforcement is accustomed to securing the stadium and keeping large crowds safe. "On Super Bowl Sunday, the safest place in the country will be inside Raymond James Stadium or inside the security footprint of the Super Bowl," McElroy said.

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

LORETTA K. DELEON GUERRERO ("Trustor"), on or about June 29, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 30, 1998, under Document No. 98-1942 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 010 K 05, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 892 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 010 K 01 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 87-2911 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$73,440.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

LARS I. PALACIOS AND ROSARIO E. PALACIOS (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 17, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on September 19, 1985, under Document No. 85-1829 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 I 145, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 1,056 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 005 I 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 16707, ON MARCH 11, 1983. THE DESCRIPTION BEING INCORPATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$85,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

IGNACIO A. CABRERA AND ANA B. CABRERA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 20, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 21, 1983 under Document No. 83-90 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 006 T 18, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 901 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 006 T 01, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 18011, ON THE 7TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1983

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$79,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

REGINA T. CASRO ("Trustor"), on or about October 23, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 23, 1984, under Document No. 84-2264 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 B 09, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 407 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 005 B 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 832, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JUNE, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$76,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

JOHN ALAN C. KING AND CARLA MARIE DLC. KING (collectively "Trustor"), on or about November 08, 2002, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 12, 2003, under Document No. 03-2781 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 330 R 321 CONTAINING AS AREA OF 838 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS AS SHOWN ON THE DIVEISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 330 R 08 DATED NOVEMBER 19, 1996, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 97-746, DATED APRIL 02, 1996, THE DESRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCROPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 02, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$65,980.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Asia

China economy grew to 3rd largest in 2007

BEIJING (AP)—China's economy grew to the world's third-largest in 2007, new data showed Wednesday, another milestone in the country's stunning ascent in the global pecking order that puts it behind only Japan and the United States.

China has grown tenfold in the past 30 years, and the revised data leapfrogged it ahead of Germany. But overtaking the United States is another matter.

"I think it will take only three to four years for China to overtake Japan as the second-largest economy in the world," said Merrill Lynch economist Ting Lu. Catching up with the United States could take decades, he added.

The status is symbolic—China's 1.3 billion people are, on average, among the world's poorest. But it reflects the country's explosive growth as it transformed from a long-isolated nation to the world's factory.

The government revised its estimate of 2007 growth from an already high 11.9 percent to 13 percent, the fastest rate since 1994. The national statistics bureau did not explain the factors behind the revision. The new estimate raised gross domestic product to 25.7 trillion yuan, or $3.5 trillion at 2007 exchange rates, the statistics bureau said. That would be ahead of Germany's 2007 GDP of 2.4 trillion euros, or $3.3 trillion at an exchange rate produced by averaging rates on the 15th of each month during that year.

The revision comes as China's export-driven economy struggles to reverse a slump caused by global turmoil and prevent already simmering social unrest over lost export-related jobs.

The government is launching a $586 billion stimulus package and is promising to help struggling exporters. China's exports fell at their fastest rate in a decade last month. On Wednesday, the Cabinet cut fuel prices and a tax on auto sales.

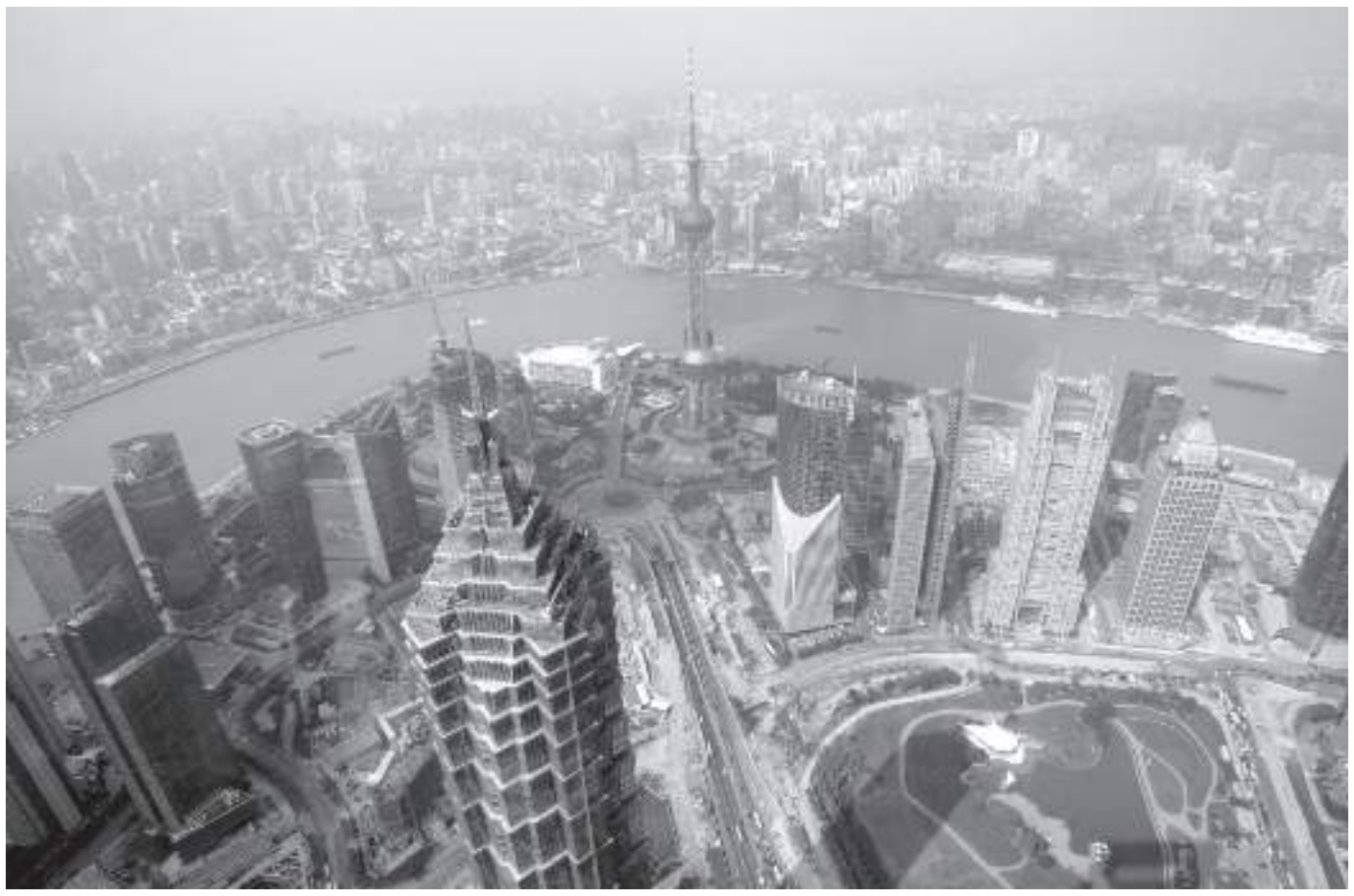
The change in economic ranking won't help China out of its slump, said Moody's Economy.com analyst Sherman Chan.

"The only effect is perhaps negative, as a stronger 2007 would make the 2008 slowdown more upsetting," Chan said in a report.

The United States is the world's biggest economy at $13.8 trillion in 2007, followed by Japan at $4.4 trillion.

Germany's 85 million people were still far ahead of China in GDP per person in 2007 at $38,800.

China's per capita GDP was $2,800 in 2007, but the country has wide disparities of wealth and poverty, and many live on far less than that. Chinese officials say more than 100 other countries have a higher income per person.



AP

In this Oct. 21, 2008 file photo the city skyline is seen from the Shanghai World Financial Center in Shanghai, China, Tuesday Oct. 21, 2008.

Pakistan dismisses Indian data as 'not evidence'

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's prime minister downplayed the significance of an Indian dossier on the Mumbai terrorist attacks, saying it is not evidence—and drawing an angry response from New Delhi on Wednesday.

India says the dossier shows that Pakistani militants staged the November slaughter of 164 people. India specifically blames Lashkar-e-Taiba, a militant group believed to have links to Pakistani intelligence.

Pakistan only recently acknowledged that the only surviving Mumbai gunman was Pakistani, but it insists none of its state agencies played a role in the attacks. Under international pressure, Pakistan has detained some suspects allegedly linked to the attacks, while repeatedly calling on India to provide evidence to allow legal prosecutions.

"All that has been received from India is some information. I say information because these are not evidence," Yousuf Raza Gilani told Parliament late Tuesday, according to the Associated Press of Pakistan.

The dossier, handed over on Jan. 5, included transcripts of phone calls allegedly made during the siege by the attackers and their handlers in Pakistan. Previously, India had given Pakistan a letter from the lone surviving gunman, Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, that reportedly said he and the nine other gunmen were Pakistani.

3 aid workers abducted in southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen abducted three aid workers Thursday from Italy, Switzerland and the Philippines on a southern island where Muslim militants are active, the local Red Cross said.

The three representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross were in a car on their way to Jolo airport after visiting a local jail when they were intercepted by motorcycle-riding gunmen who took them away in their vehicle, said Sen. Richard Gordon, chairman of the Philippine National Red Cross.

The driver and two other Filipinos were released and reported the incident, he told The Associated Press.

The island is a stronghold of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group, which is notorious for kidnappings and terror attacks. Gordon refused to say who may have been responsible.

"It is my hope that these people realize that the Red Cross is there to help them. The Red Cross is neutral," he said.

Military spokeswoman Lt. Estefani Cacho identified the kidnapped workers as Swiss Andreas Notter, Italian Eugenio Vagni and Filipino Jean Lacaba. She had no other details.

Regional commander Lt. Gen. Nelson Allaga said troops were pursuing the group.

Despite American military training and assistance, including dozens of U.S. troops stationed in Jolo, Abu Sayyaf militants have kidnapped several people on Jolo and nearby Basilan in the past months but they have all been released, usually after a ransom has been paid.

Sri Lanka military seizes key northern peninsula

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)-Government forces have seized a final strip of land from Tamil Tiger rebels in a key northern peninsula of Sri Lanka, securing control of the symbolic heart of the 25-year separatist insurgency, the military said.

The defense secretary, meanwhile, accused some journalists of being "terrorists" trying to save the rebel group from the brink of defeat.

The military took full control Wednesday of the northern Jaffna peninsula, the cultural capital of Sri Lanka's ethnic Tamil minority, leaving the rebels in control of only one remaining district.

The peninsula was fully secured when soldiers captured Chundikkulam village, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said. Last week, troops captured the Elephant Pass base, the insurgents' final stronghold on the peninsula.

Nanayakkara said the rebels retreated with their dead and that the military did not suffer any casualties.

Rebel officials could not be reached for comment.

Sri Lanka's military started this year on a high, seizing the capital of the rebels' de facto state, securing Elephant Pass and forcing the retreating fighters into a small territory in the northeast.

Humanitarian groups say some 230,000 civilians were crammed in the remaining rebel-held district of Mullaittivu. The rebels said they are protecting civilians who voluntarily moved to the district, but Human Rights Watch has accused the rebels of preventing people from fleeing.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US ambassador to China lauds ties

BEIJING (AP)—The departing U.S. ambassador to China said Wednesday that bilateral relations with Beijing have expanded and matured during his tenure, and remain in "good shape." "I am pleased to be leaving with the U.S.-China relationship in good shape. People tell me it's as good as it's ever been and I'm proud of that fact," said Ambassador Clark T. Randt Jr. during a farewell address to the American Chamber of Commerce. Randt, a political appointee under President George W. Bush, is ending his eight-year tenure as the longest serving U.S. ambassador to China. He departs Beijing on Tuesday. The Obama administration, which comes into office Jan. 20, has not yet named possible candidates for the post and no clear front-runner has emerged as a possible successor. Randt, who took office in July 2001, said the Bush administration made a concerted effort to strengthen ties with China and as a result, "significantly improved US-China relations will be one of the lasting legacies of President Bush."

Khmer Rouge trial date to be set

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—The U.N.-backed genocide tribunal met Thursday to set the date for the long-awaited trial of the first of five Khmer Rouge leaders charged with crimes during the regime's reign of terror in the 1970s. Kaing Guek Eav, better known as Duch, is expected to take the stand in mid-March but the exact date will be determined during the two-day, closed-door meeting. Duch headed the S-21 prison, the largest Khmer Rouge torture facility in which up to 16,000 men, women and children perished, typically after suffering gruesome torture. During the "trial management meeting," judges and prosecutors will discuss the plan for the first trial, appearance of witnesses and media coverage of the proceedings, said court spokesman Helen Jarvis. Duch will also appear at the session to determine his health condition and readiness to stand trial, she said.

Report: Myanmar activist gets 104 years in jail

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Military-ruled Myanmar has freed six people who recently called for the release of detained democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, but sentenced another activist to 104 years in prison, relatives and an activist group said Wednesday. Six members of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party who marched for her release on Dec. 30 in the country's biggest city, Yangon, were freed without charge Wednesday, said the detainees' relatives. They spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of harassment by the authorities. Three others activists remained in detention, according to the relatives. Nobel peace laureate Suu Kyi, the face of Myanmar's beleaguered opposition, has been detained without trial for about 13 of the past 19 years, despite a worldwide campaign calling on the country's military rulers to release her.

World

Bin Laden urges jihad against Israel over Gaza

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Osama bin Laden urged Muslims to launch a jihad against Israel, seeking to harness anger over the Gaza offensive with a new message posted on the Internet on Wednesday.

The al-Qaida chief vowed to open "new fronts" against the U.S. and its allies beyond Iraq and Afghanistan and also criticized Arab leaders, accusing most of them of being allies of the U.S. and Israel.

The White House dismissed the call to jihad, saying it reflects bin Laden's isolation and shows he is trying to remain relevant at a time when his ideology and mission are being challenged.

Bin Laden spoke in a 22-minute audiotape posted on Islamic militant Web sites where al-Qaida usually issues its messages. The 51-year-old al-Qaida leader has been in hiding since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, believed to be living somewhere along the lawless Pakistan-Afghan border.

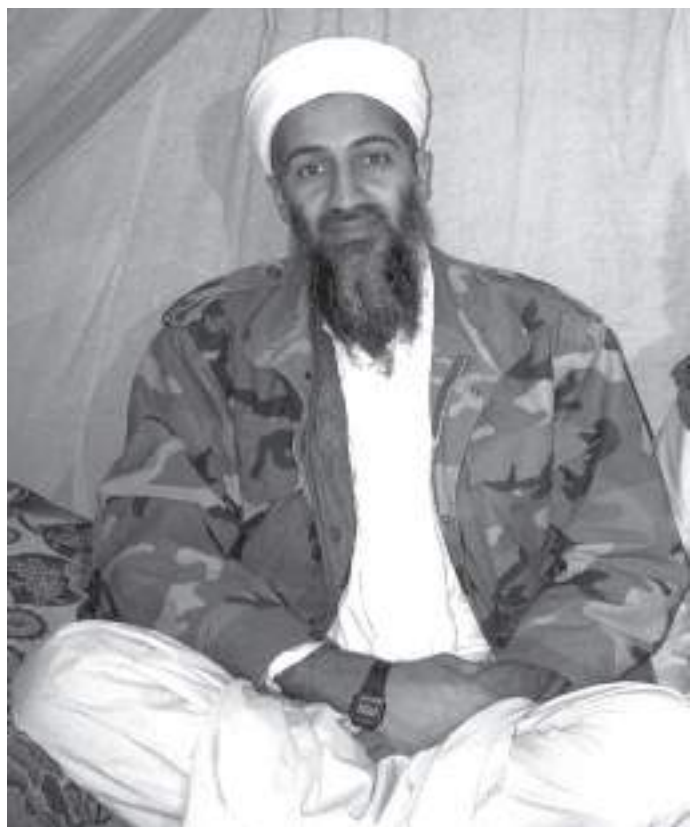
It was bin Laden's first tape since May and came nearly three weeks after Israel launched the offensive against Hamas that Gaza medical officials say has killed more than 1,000 Palestinians.

He said President-elect Barack Obama has received a "heavy inheritance" from George W. Bush—two wars and "the collapse of the economy." He predicted that burden will render the U.S. unable to sustain a long fight against the mujahedeen, or holy warriors.

There is "only one strong way to bring the return of Al-Aqsa and Palestine, and that is jihad in the path of God," Bin Laden said, referring to the revered Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. "The duty is to urge people to jihad and to enlist the youth into jihad brigades."

He also appealed for donations to finance the fight, saying the "tithes from any of the great Muslim or Arab traders" would be enough "for jihad on all the fronts."

The authenticity of the tape could not be independently confirmed. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said he had no reason to question its authenticity but was not certain whether the U.S. had verified the voice.



AP

This is an undated file photo of al Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, in Afghanistan.

First Gaza damage estimate: $1.4 billion

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Israel's fierce assault on Gaza's Hamas rulers has destroyed at least $1.4 billion worth of buildings, roads, pipes, power lines and other infrastructure in the already impoverished territory, Palestinian surveyors estimate.

Arab and Western countries will be called on to foot much of the bill to rebuild—which Palestinian economists say could take five years or more.

The Israeli military says it has bombed over 2,500 Hamas-linked targets since Dec. 27, including 250 tunnels the militant group used to smuggle in arms as well as large amounts of weapon stockpiles and rocket launcher squads.

■■■

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Witnesses say Israeli ground troops are advancing into crowded residential areas of Gaza City and thousands of terrified residents are fleeing their homes.

Israeli troops backed by helicopter gunships, tanks and heavy guns thrust deeper into the city than ever before Thursday to seek Hamas fighters, they said.

It wasn't clear whether this would be a brief foray or signal a new phase in Israel's devastating offensive against Gaza's Islamic Hamas rulers.

Israel has balked at launching all-out urban warfare in Gaza City, where Hamas militants are more familiar with the lay of the land and Israeli casualties would be liable to spiral.

Israel launched the offensive on Dec. 27 to stop militant rocket fire on southern Israel from Gaza.

Basra is focus of Shiite rivalry in southern Iraq

BASRA, Iraq (AP)—Freed last year from the grip of militias, Basra has emerged as the main battleground for rival Shiites in elections for control of the oil-rich south—a race that will test the power of religious parties and the influence of neighboring Iran.

The Jan. 31 ballot, in which voters across the country will choose ruling provincial councils, will be the first since U.S.-backed Iraqi forces wrested control of Basra from Shiite militias and criminal gangs.

American officials will be watching the outcome for any sign that the militias might return in Iraq's second largest city of about 2 million people, located only a few miles from the Iranian border.

More than 1,000 candidates have entered the race for Basra's 35 council seats, filling the city's dusty and traffic-choked streets with campaign posters and flyers that give the city a festive look. The outcome will help shape the political future of the southern Shiite heartland ahead of national elections expected by year's end.

Basra has been relatively quiet since last year's military crackdown, which ended three years of Shiite militia rule, rampant crime and turmoil. Today, thousands of national police and army soldiers patrol its streets.

At the commercial heart of the city, the soldiers and policemen rub shoulders with the thousands of residents who throng stores until late into the night. With militiamen off the streets, women are out in public again—some unaccompanied by male chaperons and wearing makeup.

WORLD BRIEFS

Insurgents attack Somali presidential palace

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Islamic insurgents attacked Somalia's presidential palace and five civilians were killed Wednesday, underscoring fears the country could collapse into further chaos only a day after Ethiopian troops handed over security duties to a Somali force. The extremist group at the center of the fighting, which wants to establish an Islamic state in Somalia, said it now would focus its attacks on the thousands of African Union peacekeepers in the country. "You used to hear Ethiopian bases were attacked daily, but from now you will hear the African Union bases were attacked," said Sheik Muktar Robow, spokesman of the Islamic insurgency group, al-Shabab, which the U.S. State Department considers a terrorist organization with links to al-Qaida. "We ask them to leave our country. If not, we will force them to leave," Robow said of the peacekeepers at a news conference in the Somali capital.

Police nab Mafia fugitive who fled through sewer

ROME (AP)—A Mafia fugitive who narrowly eluded arrest this week by fleeing though a small town's sewer system was captured Wednesday as he scrambled across a rooftop in another daring escape bid, police said. Investigators say the mobster Giuseppe Setola masterminded a terror spree that has bloodied the Caserta area of southern Italy for several months in a power struggle within the Camorra crime syndicate. With a reputation as a sharpshooting hit-man, Setola, 38, has been convicted of murder and sentenced in absentia to life in prison. He escaped in the spring from house arrest, which was granted so he could recover from a purported eye problem. Setola "was trying to escape by rooftop, further proof that he sees very well," Carabinieri paramilitary police Col. Carmelo Burgio told Sky TG24 TV.

Vatican secret confession tribunal opens up

ROME (AP)—One of the Vatican's most secrecy shrouded tribunals, which handles confessions of sins so grave only the pope can grant absolution, is giving the faithful a peek into its workings for the first time in its 830-year history. The Vatican has long lamented that fewer and fewer Catholics are going to confession, the sacrament in which the faithful can receive forgiveness if they sincerely confess their sins to a priest. To combat the decline, the so-called "tribunal of conscience" invited the public into the frescoed halls of its imposing 16th-century palazzo for a two-day conference that ended Wednesday. The aim was to explain what the Apostolic Penitentiary actually does, and thereby encourage more of the faithful to go to confession, said Monsignor Gianfranco Girotti, the tribunal's No. 2 official. "Even though it's the oldest department of the Holy See, it's very little known—specifically because by its nature it deals with secret things," he said. "We want to relaunch the sacrament of penance."

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICE OF PERSONNET MANAGEMENT
P.O. Box 5153 CHRB, SAIPAN. MP 96950 -5153
TEL. NOS.: (670) 234-6925 /6958/8036
Fax no.: (670) 234-1013

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: 08-087
OPENING DATE: 01/16/09
CLOSING DATE: 01/30/09

REANNOUNCEMENT

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: **Program Analyst** **PL - UNGRADED**
$1,461.54 B/W - $38,000.00 P/A

The salary given will be determined by the qualification of the appointee.

LOCATION: **Office of the Governor, Saipan**
CIP Program Office

DUTIES:
Provides administrative support to the CIP Administrator and the Contracting Officer. Provides support, coordination and administration of the Covenant section 702 Capital Improvement Program funding. Develops and monitors the program's project budgets. Assists the CIP Administrator in preparation of project drawdowns. Assists the CIP Administrator in preparation of the semi-annual reports (SF269/272). Assists the CIP Administrator in the audit review process. Monitors various project activities and transactions according to the applicable Federal Grant Agreements, local procurement rules and regulations and Appropriation Acts. Assumes project responsibility for administering the activities and operations for all CIP contracts. Possesses the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing. Possesses the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with grantor agencies, other departments, agencies, elected, and appointed officials and the general public. Maintains and organizes project files on a daily basis. Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Any combination equivalent to graduation from college or university with an Associate's Degree in accounting, business-related fields such as administration, management or finance; or any equivalent combination of training, experience and additional education that provides the necessary knowledge, abilities and skills. A minimum of eight (8) years of general experience in program administration. Copy of degree/official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application.

CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
This position is **"COVERED"** Is eligible to receive overtime payment for overtime hours performed pursuant to Part IV.B16 of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulation (PSSR/R), Part I.7C of the Excepted Service Regulation (ESR) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

NOTE: Education and training claimed under item 25(A) through (F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma or certificate. FAILURB TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATTON.

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SEND THEIR CURRENT APPLICATION FORMS TO:

Office of Personnel Management
J.M. Building, Garapan
Saipan, MP 96950

Office of Personnel Management
San Jose Village
Tinian, MP 96952

Office of Personnel Management
Songsong Village
Rota, MP 96951

Science & Technology

Panel: Technology alone can't protect kids online

AP

A task force charged with assessing technologies for protecting children from unwanted contact online has concluded that no single approach is foolproof and that parental oversight is vital.

NEW YORK (AP)—A task force charged with assessing technologies for protecting children from unwanted contact online has concluded that no single approach is foolproof and that parental oversight is vital.

The Harvard-led panel, in a report obtained by The Associated Press and scheduled for release Wednesday, dismissed prospects for age-verification technologies, the approach favored by many law-enforcement officials who had pushed for the creation of the task force.

The yearlong Internet Safety Technical Task Force also played down fears of Internet sexual predators who target children on social-networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace. While citing other dangers such as online bullying, the panel said cases of predators typically involved youths well aware they were meeting an adult for sexual activities.

Technology can be a component in the strategy to protect minors online, but Internet companies "should not overly rely upon any single technology or group of technologies as the primary solution," the task force said.

Facebook, MySpace still mostly for youth

NEW YORK (AP)—More people are embracing social networks like MySpace and Facebook, but use of these friend-gathering sites remains a much bigger phenomenon among the young, according to a report released Wednesday by the Pew Internet & American Life Project.

Of the roughly three-quarters of U.S. adults who go online, 35 percent use social networking sites such as MySpace, Facebook or LinkedIn, Pew found in a survey of 2,250 people late last year. Just 8 percent of adult Web users were on social networking sites four years ago.

Through the most recent survey and other polls last year, Pew determined just how much more likely it was for younger people to be participating in social networks. Some 65 percent of online teenagers 12 to 17 use the sites, and three-quarters of Internet users between 18 and 24 have a profile. In comparison, just 7 percent of Internet users who are 65 and older are on the sites.

THE HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: When I right-click a PDF file and select "Open with," my Mac lists Preview, Adobe 9, Adobe 8 and Adobe 7 as options. How do I get Adobe 8 and Adobe 7—removed from the Mac a long time ago—off this menu?

A: This can happen when a system database called Launch Services gets scrambled.

Apple doesn't provide a simple way to fix this, so the easiest remedy may be a third-party utility called Cocktail. It sells for $14.95, but you can download a trial version from its developer's site (maintain.se/cocktail).

To clean up that "Open with" menu, start Cocktail, click its "System" tab, select the "Databases" heading and click the "Rebuild" button next to "Rebuild Launch Services database." A "Restore default file associations" checkbox, if clicked, will also wipe out any custom open-with choices you've added.

While you've got Cocktail around, see if it can fix any other system ailments on your Mac. Among other things, it can help tidy up a hard drive by deleting old log and cache files and adjust interface quirks like the Help program's habit of staying in front of every other program.

Q: On my new HDTV, movies still show up in letterbox. I thought getting a wide-screen set would end that.

A: The movie industry has come up with multiple definitions of "wide" since it began adopting wide-screen formats in the 1950s. Many of these surpass a high-def screen's aspect ratio of 16 to 9—or 1.78, as these things are noted on the cases of some DVDs.

For example, my copy of "Office Space" has an aspect ratio of 1.85, while "The Empire Strikes Back" is wider yet at 2.35. Both will appear on an HDTV or a widescreen monitor with black bars above and below—letterbox—but they will be smaller than on a standard-definition screen.

Off the Wall

Burglar caught after cops post footage on Facebook

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Police in New Zealand nabbed a burglar after posting security camera footage of him trying to crack a bar's safe on the Internet networking site Facebook.

Police said it was New Zealand's first such Facebook arrest and said they would use the site again to fight crime, as law enforcement officials and lawyers increasingly turn to online networks for purposes other than their original ones to provide social interaction.

"Facebook was very, very handy, and it's a good little tool," Senior Sgt. John Fookes of Queenstown police told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The burglar, wearing a face-covering balaclava and carrying a bag of tools, broke into a tiny storage room inside the Franklin Tavern in the tourist town of Queenstown early Monday and tried to cut into a safe containing $12,000 (NZ20,000) in takings from gambling machines.

After nearly an hour in the cramped space, the burglar removed his balaclava and gloves and looked around—red-faced from fruitless toil. As he left, the video shows the man suddenly spotting the lens of the security camera that was recording his every move.

"He looks around and sees it and there's just a shocked look of 'gutted,' said tavern assistant manager Mel Kelly. "His face definitely drops."

Officers posted the footage on the Queenstown police Facebook page and identification was "very, very quick; overnight, we had a number of responses" from the public, Fookes said. "If we've got something that the public can help us with then we'll certainly be putting it on Facebook."

The man was charged with two counts of burglary and was due to appear in court on Jan. 26.

A court in Australia last month approved a mortgage lender's application to use Facebook to serve legal documents on a couple who had defaulted on their payments. The previous month, a restaurateur in the Australian city of Melbourne reportedly used Facebook to track down a group who racked up a large bill then fled without paying.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Pa. couple spent windfall from bank error

BLOOMSBURG, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania couple is behind bars after police say they failed to call the bank when a glitch put an extra $175,000 in their account. Authorities say 50-year-old Randy Pratt and 36-year-old Melissa Pratt instead withdrew the money, quit their jobs and moved to Florida. They were buying a house in the Orlando area when the mistake was traced. The two were arraigned Tuesday on theft and other charges and jailed in lieu of $100,000 bail. A $1,772.50 deposit showed up in their FNB Bank account last summer as $177,250. Police say Melissa Pratt said her husband, a roofing installer, often got large checks and she wasn't aware of any error.

Goats blamed for starting house fire in Iowa

NORWALK, Iowa (AP)—Firefighters said goats may have started a fire that destroyed a home near Norwalk in central Iowa. The fire broke out early Tuesday. Three people escaped unharmed. John Hadley said his cat woke up him up, and he saw smoke coming from a ceiling. Hadley then woke up his ailing mother and her companion and got them out of the house. Assistant Northern Warren County Fire Chief Kevin Dingman said the fire may have been started by some goats kept in a shed attached to the rear of the house. He said a space heater was kept in the shed to keep the goats warm, and the goats may have knocked it over, starting the fire. The goats and a family dog were rescued, but the cat was missing.

Police say NJ man posed as female veterinarian

VINELAND, N.J. (AP)—Police say a New Jersey man posed as a female animal doctor, ran an illegal veterinary practice and set up a phony rescue agency that may have duped pet lovers out of thousands of dollars. Vineland police arrested 26-year-old Daniel C. Tyce on Friday and charged him with practicing medicine without a license. He is being held on $10,000 bail. Police say he ran a business called South Jersey Small Animal Rescue, falsely identifying himself as Dr. Danielle Smith, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania veterinary school. Police say he inoculated pets and offered small animals for adoption for a fee. He also solicited donations, claiming the agency was a nonprofit. Authorities say it was not.

Cops recognize robbery suspect at police station

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Call it confidence, or maybe foolishness. A day after allegedly robbing a woman of her purse, a 19-year-old man walked into a Milwaukee police station to inquire about the arrest of his 18-year-old girlfriend for an alleged robbery. Sgt. Mark Stanmeyer said the man didn't disguise himself when he walked into the station's lobby Tuesday night, so Sgt. Willie Lee recognized him. Lee and detectives had watched—about five hours before—the surveillance video of the purse snatcher outside of a clothing store and reviewed it again after seeing the suspect to make sure it was the same guy. The suspect is currently on probation for robbery.

Robber mistakes building for a bank, demands cash

NICHOLASVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Police said a man showed a gun and tried to rob a bank, but he wasn't in one. The Jessamine South Elkhorn Water District has offices in what was formerly a branch of Farmers Bank. City police spokesman Scott Harvey told the Lexington Herald-Leader a man came into the building Tuesday, showed a pistol and demanded money. When an employee told the man the office really didn't have any money, the confused would-be robber replied, "I know you have money. It's a bank." He was told it was no longer a bank and he left with nothing. Harvey said the office takes payments for water bills, but doesn't have anything worth stealing.

Mass. man shot twice in year at same pizza place

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP)—A 26-year-old Worcester man may want to avoid a certain pizza place—after he was shot in front of the restaurant twice in less than a year. Police said the man, whose name was not immediately released, is expected to survive three gunshot wounds he suffered in front of the Golden Pizza on Tuesday, after surviving another shooting there in April. Detective Capt. Edward McGinn told the Telegram & Gazette the man had just gotten a haircut at a barber shop Tuesday when he went across the street and got into a skirmish with a person in front of Golden Pizza. McGinn said the man was hospitalized after being shot in the legs and abdomen. The shooter fled. In the April 13 incident, police said three people were arrested after the same man was shot multiple times.

Life & Style

Hollywood on the Potomac: Where the stars will be

NEW YORK (AP)—If you thought the Golden Globes was a party, just wait until you see Barack Obama's inauguration. Next week, Washington will look a lot like a colder version of Hollywood.

Here's a roundup of who will be where, keeping in mind that in the mad rush to D.C., schedule changes may occur.

THE BIG SHOW

■ On Sunday, tradition will be upheld with a free star-studded concert on the National Mall, starting at 2:30 p.m. Among the many performers: Bruce Springsteen, U2, Beyonce, Usher, Garth Brooks, Stevie Wonder, John Mellencamp, Shakira, Mary J. Blige, Herbie Hancock, Josh Groban, John Legend and James Taylor. Denzel Washington, Jamie Foxx, Martin Luther King III and Queen Latifah will read. Obama will stop by and HBO will broadcast "We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial."

WHERE'S OPRAH

■ Winfrey will host a live episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" from the Kennedy Center Opera House on Monday. She'll also host a second episode on Wednesday. Winfrey has not announced her plans on Inauguration Day.

WHERE'S SPIKE

■ Spike Lee will appear at a daylong symposium at Howard University on Monday to discuss topics including the impact of Obama on Black America. Also there will be Rev. Al Sharpton, Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr., Dr. Cornel West and Dr. Henry Louis Gates. Lee will also host an after-party Tuesday evening.

OTHER CONCERTS

■ BET will hold an awards ceremony, the BET Honors, Saturday at the Warner Theater to honor Mary J. Blige, filmmaker Tyler Perry, Ervin "Magic" Johnson and others. Gabrielle Union will host and performers include Queen Latifa, Ne-Yo, Anita Baker and Joss Stone.

■ The Hip-hop Caucus will host a concert Saturday at Ibiza with Common, Mary J. Blige and Nelly.

■ Jessica Alba will host a kickoff event by youth voter initiative Declare Yourself on Sunday dubbed "A New Birth of Citizenship." Maroon 5 and DJ Samantha Ronson will perform.

■ "Kids' Inaugural: We Are the Future" will be held Monday night at the Verizon Center and air on the Disney Channel. Performing will be Miley Cyrus, the Jonas Brothers and Bow Wow. Michelle Obama and Jill Biden will host with their families.

■ The "America Feels Kinda Cool Again Inaugural Gala" will feature the Beastie Boys, Sheryl Crow and Citizen Cope on Monday at the 9:30 club.

■ Jay-Z will perform a concert—"In Concert on the Eve on Change"—at the Warner Theater on Monday.

■ Aretha Franklin will play a free concert at the Kennedy Center with Nuttin' But Stringz and the Let Freedom Ring Choir on Monday.

■ Manifest Hope will finish a three-day-long, Inauguration-themed art exhibit with a party featuring performances by Santogold, Moby and De La Soul.

THE OFFICIAL BALLS

■ The Neighborhood Ball: ABC will broadcast this ball for Washington residents at the Washington Convention Center. Performing will be Mariah Carey, Jay-Z, Beyonce, Alicia Keys, Faith Hill and Mary J. Blige.

■ The Youth Ball: This ball is for people aged 18 to 35 to celebrate "the role young Americans can play to serve their communities." After announcing and then junking a similarly themed ball, MTV will broadcast it. Fall Out Boy is among the acts attending.

■ The other eight official balls are: the Home States Ball, the Commander in Chief Ball, the Biden Home State Ball, the Mid-Atlantic Ball, the Western and Southern Regional Ball, the Midwest Regional Ball, the New England Ball and the Southern Regional Ball.

THE UNOFFICIAL BALLS

■ The "Dreams of My Father" American Scholars Inaugural Ball will take place Sunday at the Four Seasons and feature Alicia Keys, Macy Gray and LL Cool J.

■ The Voto Latino Inaugural Party will on Sunday include Marc Antony, Rosario Dawson, Tony Plana and Wilmer Valderrama.

■ The Hip-Hop Inaugural Ball will take place Monday at the Harman Center and be hosted by Russell Simmons, LL Cool J, T.I. and Young Jeezy

■ The Huffington Post Preinaugural Ball will be held Monday night at the Newseum and feature performances by Sting and will.i.am. Attendees will include Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg, Denzel Washington, Shakira, Jon Bon Jovi, Halle Berry and Ashton Kutcher.

■ The Green Inaugural Ball will be held Monday at the Portrait Gallery and be hosted by Al Gore.

■ Muhammad Ali will attend the Kentucky Inaugural Ball on Monday at the Marriott Wardman Hotel.

■ The nonprofit arts and entertainment advocacy group Creative Coalition will hold a gala to be headlined by Elvis Costello and Sting at the Harman Center for the Arts on Tuesday. Also attending will be Anne Hathaway, Spike Lee, Tim Robbins, Maggie Gyllenhaal and others.

Winfrey

■ The Purple Ball, Tuesday at the Fairmont Hotel, will be hosted by Lou Gossett Jr. and Il Divo will perform. Expected to attend are: Ashley Judd, Patricia Arquette, John Cusack, Tim Robbins, Ed Harris, Ashley Judd, Josh Lucas, Amy Brenneman, Brendan Fraser, Susan Sarandon and Lisa Marie Presley.

■ There will be two American Music Balls: The Legends Ball, hosted by Dionne Warwick and featuring Chaka Khan and George Clinton; and the Urban Ball—hosted by Ludacris and featuring Cedric the Entertainer and Monica. Both will be held Tuesday at the Marriot Wardman Park Hotel.

■ BET will host an inaugural ball at the Mandarin Oriental hotel Tuesday. The network will broadcast an hour special to coincide with the ball, which will include a performance by Wyclef Jean.

■ The Equality Ball, hosted by the Human Rights Campaign, will be held Tuesday at the Mayflower Hotel with appearances by Cyndi Lauper, Melissa Etheridge and Rufus Wainwright.

■ The Inaugural Peace Ball, Tuesday at the Smithsonian Postal Museum, will be hosted by Harry Belafonte and include Joan Baez, Graham Nash and Jackson Brown.

■ Rihanna will perform at the Recording Industry Association of America Inaugural Ball to benefit Feeding America on Tuesday.

■ Nas, Josh Groban, Slash and Robert Randolph are among those performing at the Heroes Red, White & Blue Inaugural Ball (benefiting military families and veterans) on Tuesday at the Warner Theater.

Death and Funeral Announcement

In Loving Memory of

SUSANA CAMACHO MUNA MASGA

Better known as Chana-Ignacio
Born to Life on April 12, 1937.
Susana was called by her Creator on January 9, 2009.

In paradise, she will join her
Husband: Ignacio Concepcion Masga
Parents: Jose A. Muna, Concepcion Camacho Muna
Daughter: Mary Elizabeth Muna Masga
Parents-in-law: Pedro M. & Cecilia C. Masga
Sister & Brother-in-law: Margarita M. lgitol, Efrain M. Reyes
Son-in-law: Gregorio Delos Reyes
Grandchild: Jonathan Delos Reyes

Survived by Children, Spouse & Grand Children:
Cecilia M. & Hal Steinkopf (Joseph & Rachel, Lloyd & Beth, Tanya, Derick)
Antonio M. Masga (Charlene, Valerie, Jacob, Patrick, Taija, Clifford, Megan, Portia,)
Oscar M. & Maria B. Masga (Desiree, Andrew, Doreen, Oscar Jr., Darcy)
Melvin M. & On Yun Li Masga (Luisa & Angel, Tanishia, Lea, Nikko, Maya)
†Mary Elizabeth M. Masga (Sue Ellen & Michael, Harland, Michael, Jonathan, Abdul, Althea)
Diego M. & Tess M. Masga (Rachel Ann, Michelle Ann, John Diego)
Maggie M. Masga (Jasmine & Byron; Kisha, Alyssa, Colleen, Nathaniel, Caitlin)
Diana M. & Jose Sablan (Ryan & Carmen, Randall, Jodian)
George M. & Xiao Meng Masga (Kimberly, Brandon)

Brothers, Sisters & In-Law:
Jack C. Muna & Laura P. Sablan, Matilde M. & Amado Verdaguer, Pedro C. & Julie Muna, Efrain C. Muna & Margret T. Cabrera, Pete JL Igitol (†Margarita M. Igitol)
Mathilde C. Igitol, Juan Cruz, Magdalena Villanueva/ Juan, Michael Villanueva, Joseph Villanueva/ Anuncia, Ignacio Villanueva/Angie/Sophia Villanueva

Susana also leaves behind and will be greatly missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, grandchildren & great grandchildren.
Caretaker: Dominga Magbitang

Nightly Mass is being offered at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Holy Rosary at St. Jude Church. Her remains will leave Borja Funeral Home on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. and will be escorted to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed immediately by Christian Burial at Tanapag Cemetery.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

The Children & Family of Susana Camacho Muna Masqa

Run-DMC, Metallica lead list of 2009 Rock Hall

NEW YORK (AP)—Run-DMC once hailed themselves as the Kings of Rock, so it's fitting that the pioneering rappers have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Run-DMC joins the heavy metal band Metallica, guitarist and former Yardbirds member Jeff Beck; soul singer and guitarist Bobby Womack and doo-wop group Little Anthony and the Imperials as this year's inductee class.

Though Run-DMC wasn't among the first rap acts, they were the first to achieve widespread mainstream success, and the first to notch a platinum album with 1986's "Raising Hell." The rapping duo of Joseph "Run" Simmons and Darryl "DMC" McDaniels—plus their DJ, the late Jam Master Jay—were rap's first rock stars. They had hits with songs like "My Adiddas" and "It's Tricky," but had their greatest success when they remade Aerosmith's "Walk This Way" with the rock act for a groundbreaking collaboration.

In an interview Wednesday, McDaniels called Run-DMC's induction "inconceivable."

"I'm a rap dude, I'm an MC from Hollis (a neighborhood in New York's borough of Queens), just rockin' the mic, and to be in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, with the Beatles, and (Bob) Dylan, and the rock 'n' roll gods? It's ridiculous! Ridiculous in a good way," he said.

He also gave a nod to the predecessors who paved the way for the group's success: "I share this nomination and the induction and the whole award with those cats, everyone from the Bronx and Harlem who started this."

Jam Master Jay—whose real name was Jason Mizell—was shot to death in his recording studio in 2002. McDaniels doesn't consider the induction bittersweet—"because Jay isn't here to celebrate doesn't mean he's not partaking in this event"—but said he couldn't see the duo performing during the April 4 induction ceremony in Cleveland without him.

"We can't do it without Jay," he said. "I want people to remember the last time they saw us together, the three of us."

AP

The band Metallica, from left, James Hetfield, Lars Ulrich, Kirk Hammett and Robert Trujillo pose after a news conference in New York on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009 in New York.

Like Run-DMC, Metallica made its debut 25 years ago with the seminal album "Kill 'Em All," and became pioneers in their genre, with their thrashing metal sound, led by the frenetic guitar play of James Hetfield and the drumming of Lars Ulrich. One of rock's more enduring bands, the group has sold upwards of 60 million records in the United States alone, and are still one of music's most successful acts: They are on a top-selling tour, their latest album, "Death Magnetic," has sold more than a million copies and has also been nominated for Grammy awards.

"Life is good in Metallica right now. A lot of good things are happening. Quite opposite of what they were during the `St. Anger' time," said Hetfield, referring to the 2003 CD that was reviled by many Metallica fans.

The group—which also consists of guitarist Kirk Hammett and bass player Robert Trujillo—also went through periods of infighting (famously chronicled in the 2004 documentary "Metallica: Some Kind of Monster").

"So all the work and effort that we put into our relationship back then has brought a lot of fruits of labor with that, on this album, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Grammys. So we're feeling good," Hetfield added.

He also said the honor was for everyone who had played with the group: Late bassist Cliff Burton and bassist Jason Newsted, who will also be inducted.

Cleveland native Womack, who was part of the group the Womack Brothers until breaking out on his own with hits including "If You Think You're Lonely Now," said the induction ceremony would bring him back home for the first time in almost three decades.

"This is just the greatest, I'm extremely happy," he said. "It proves that, if you're blessed to be able to wait on what's important to you, a lot of things will change in life."

Besides the main inductees, rockabilly singer Wanda Jackson got a nod for the early influence category, and the sidemen inductees are session musician Spooner Oldham and two of Elvis Presley's musicians—drummer D.J. Fontana and bassist Bill Black.

The induction ceremony is returning to Cleveland after several years in New York City. It will aired live by the Fuse network.

The hall of fame also announced on Wednesday that Bruce Springsteen will be the focus of a new exhibit called "From Asbury Park to the Promised Land: The Life and Music of Bruce Springsteen." It opens April 1.

Ford, Fraser pair for film

LOSANGELES(AP)—Indiana Jones and "The Mummy" slayer are teaming up on the big screen—to battle not ancient, otherworldly baddies, but a big medical dilemma. Brendan Fraser will join Harrison Ford for a medical drama set to begin filming in April, CBS Films announced Wednesday. The untitled movie will be the first production for CBS Films, a feature film division established in 2007.

Ford

Fraser will play a father who recruits the help of a medical researcher portrayed by Ford. CBS Films said the film's screenplay is inspired by "The Cure," a book by Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Geeta Anand about John F. Crowley, a former Bristol Myers Squibb executive who started his own biotech company to save his two children from a rare muscular disorder.

In Loving Memory Of

Juan Quitugua Kapileo
(Juan Iori)
January 05, 1949 - January 13, 2009

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: †Felipe Musuk Kapileo & †Faustina Quitugua Kapileo
Parents-in-laws: †Joseph Jesus & †Sarah Suda
Brother & Sisters: †Antonio Q. Kapileo, †Cynthia Q. Kapileo
Children: †Julia & †Jay Eric S. Kapileo
Grandchildren: †Cristina Edwina & †Alandadonn K. Malwelbug

He will be missed and his memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife:
Julita (Iori) Suda Kapileo

Children & Grandchildren:
TM Suda (Jung Tsua)
Kristina K./Lorenzo L. Norita (Larry John Baldemero & Frankie Byron)
Valerie K./Finian Malwelbug (Anthony John, Alvin, David Lionel, Donn Travis & Jewel Siaweribeg)
Antonio S./Ida A. Kapileo (Julia Faustina, Phillip Joe & Kyle Kawika)
Juan S. Kapileo/Florence S. Calvo (Sion, Juan Carlos & J'dean Leilisheng)
Jonathan S./Joanna D. Kapileo (Melvin John, Erica Nathania & Peka Angelo)
Jerry S. Kapileo
Eric S. Kapileo

Reared Son & Spouse:
Rego Jicko/Helen Esetok (Drauzen Zeus & Caitlen Alysse)

Siblings & Spouse:
Dionicia K./Singeru Techur
Canice Q. /Veronica T. Kapileo
Ana K. Kaiser
Felipe Q. /Esther K. Kapileo
Joseph Q./Teresa P. Kapileo
Luis Q./Pauline DLG. Kapileo
Jacinta Q. Kapileo
Ignacia K./Ferdous Bhuiyan
Jesus Q. Kapileo
Fabian Nick Q./Ursula A. Kapileo

Brothers/Sisters-in-law & Spouse:
Markus/Yuri Suda
Johanes/Loreta Suda
Sakie/Dennis
Katherine S./Eddie Omar
Baldazar/Natalie Suda
Bibiana/Mais

He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Daily rosary is being offered at the family's residence in Tanapag at 7:30 p.m. On Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. the remains of Juan Q. Kapileo will be escorted from CHC to the family's residence. The mass of Christian burial and Interment will be on Wednesday, January 21,2009 at 11:00 a.m. at Santa Remedios Church followed by burial at the Tanapag cemetery. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers.

Indie time: Sundance mixes stars, newcomers, and fans

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—The Sundance Film Festival resumes its duties as a great equalizer of the cinema world.

This is where complete unknowns can suddenly find themselves sought-after talent among Hollywood distributors. This is where marquee talent such as Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon and Chris Rock turn up in thoughtful, non-studio flicks. And it's where eager audiences get to grill stars and filmmakers about the creative process during question-and-answer sessions after screenings.

Overseen by Robert Redford's Sundance Institute, the festival is the nation's top showcase for independent film. The 11-day festival includes 118 feature-length films and 96 shorts.

Opening the festival Thursday night is director Adam Elliot's "Mary and Max," a clay-animation tale about a pen-pal friendship between an 8-year-old Australian girl (voiced by Toni Collette) and an obese middle-aged New Yorker (Philip Seymour Hoffman).

Filmmakers say one of the festival's big lures is rubbing elbows with fans who brave the cold, snow and mob scene of Sundance to see something different than what they'll find at their local multiplex.

"That's the best thing about going to a festival, especially Sundance," said Bobcat Goldthwait, writer-director of the dark Sundance comedy "World's Greatest Dad," starring Robin Williams. "I feel like I'm a rich guy who pays money to go to one of those fantasy baseball camps and gets to play baseball with the pros. That's what it's like for me."

"The Office" co-star John Krasinski makes his directing debut with the comedy "Brief Interviews With Hideous Men"; Rock plays host for the documentary "Good Hair" exploring African-American hairstyles; and Sarandon and Pierce Brosnan star in the melodrama "The Greatest."

Other big-name entries include Richard Gere, Don Cheadle and Ethan Hawke in Antoine Fuqua's cop drama "Brooklyn's Finest," Uma Thurman in the domestic tale "Motherhood," Kevin Spacey as analyst to Hollywood A-listers in "Shrink" and William Hurt and Chiwetel Ejiofor in the apartheid story "Endgame."

Festival director Geoffrey Gilmore said key themes this time are "romance and activism."

Sundance is heavy on cautionary environmental stories, among them the dolphin tale "The Cove," the oil-pollution chronicle "Crude" and the earthy ecology study "Dirt! The Movie."

AP

In this image released by the Sundance Institute, Ewan McGregor, left, and Jim Carrey are shown in a scene from the con-artist tale "I Love Philip Morris," will be showcased at the Sundance Film Festival, the independent-film showcase that runs Jan. 15-25 in Park City, Utah.

'Idol' draws 30.1 million viewers for season debut

NEW YORK (AP)—An estimated 30.1 million people watched the season debut of "American Idol," which left Fox's entertainment chief "relieved but not satisfied."

Wednesday night's two-hour show, which introduced new judge Kara DioGuardi and was noticeably less intent on humiliating the talent-deficient, was the most-watched prime-time program of the TV season so far, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Yet it was down 10 percent from the 33.4 million who watched the 2008 debut. The 37.4 million who watched the 2007 debut represents the series' high point for opening nights.

The decline is consistent with what is happening on broadcast TV this season, said Peter Liguori, Fox entertainment chairman. A hangover from last year's writers' strike and the increased use of digital video recorders means that year-to-year growth in live viewing is the exception rather than the rule.

"We're unsatisfied because within the `Idol' universe, you never want to see year-to-year erosion, ever," Liguori said. "With all that being said, I think we're optimistic about the show's performance from this point forward."

AP

In this image provided by Fox, Katrina Darrell, 20 auditions for American Idol in Phoenix.

Of the 20 most popular prime-time programs at this time last year that returned for another season, 14 have lost viewership. The six shows that have increased their audience this year, such as "NCIS" and "Two and a Half Men," are all on CBS.

Before "Idol," the most-watched prime-time entertainment show of the season had been the season debut of CBS' "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," seen by 23.5 million viewers on Oct. 9. Until Tuesday night, the most people gathered around the TV for a single show was the 27.8 million who watched the Indianapolis-San Diego NFL playoff on Jan. 3.

"American Idol" was praised by one of Fox's rivals, CBS Entertainment President Nina Tassler, on Wednesday when she cited it as a reason advertisers stick with broadcast networks.

"You don't find these kinds of numbers on cable or any other medium," Tassler told a meeting of the Television Critics Association. "Network television still works when advertisers and audiences respond to creative, high-quality content."

Liguori said the effort to be more "aspirational," or focus on the personal stories and dreams of would-be idols, should help the show appeal to more female viewers in its eighth season. Fox is also cutting its run of tryout sessions from four weeks to three to spend more time in Hollywood, he said.

Inaugural eve concert to honor military families

WASHINGTON (AP)—Thousands of military families and children from across the mid-Atlantic region will be honored during a special concert for kids on the eve of President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration, organizers announced Wednesday.

Miley Cyrus and the Jonas Brothers are slated to perform at the Monday night event, along with Demi Lovato and Bow Wow. Usher, Billy Ray Cyrus and Keke Palmer also are scheduled to appear at the Verizon Center in downtown Washington. The concert will be televised on the Disney Channel.

Michelle Obama and Jill Biden will host the event with their families. The audience will include active duty, reserve and guard forces, as well as wounded warriors and families of fallen soldiers.

"So many of our military members, they get deployed to foreign regions and have to leave their children behind," said Lt. Cmdr. Brenda Steele of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, who has served in Afghanistan. "Now our incoming commander in chief and the new first lady to-be, they're rendering honors to us."

The Presidential Inaugural Committee said tickets have been distributed to families through the Department of Defense and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, which serves about 35,000 children annually.

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Hotel For Dogs
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:35
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:35
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon and Tues 4:00 7:00
Emma Roberts, Don Cheadle
Comedy, Children • Rated PG

Synopsis
Andi and her younger brother, Bruce, live in a strictly no-pets household and are fast running out of ways to keep their perpetually hungry dog, Friday, under wraps. When they accidentally stumble on an abandoned hotel that is already home to a couple of resourceful strays, Andi has an idea. She taps Bruce's mechanical genius for turning everyday objects into mechanical marvels, and, with the help of their friends in the neighborhood, transform the down-and-out hotel into a magical dog paradise--not only for Friday, but for every stray they can find.

My Bloody Valentine
Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:15
Mon and Tues 4:30 7:15
Jaime King, Tom Atkins
Horror • Rated R

Synopsis
Ten years ago, a tragedy changed the town of Harmony forever. Tom Hanniger, an inexperienced coal miner, caused an accident in the tunnels that trapped and killed five men and sent the only survivor, Harry Warden, into a permanent coma. Then, exactly one year later, on Valentine's Day, Harry Warden woke up--and brutally murdered twenty-two people with a pickaxe before being killed. Ten years later, Tom Hanniger returns to Harmony on Valentine's Day, still haunted by the deaths he caused.

Paul Blart, Mall Cop
Friday 4:20 7:05 10:00
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 10:00
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon and Tues 4:20 7:05
Kevin James, Jayma Mays
Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis
A single, suburban dad tries to make ends meet as a security officer at a New Jersey mall. It's a job he takes very seriously, though no one else does. When Santa's helpers at the mall stage a coup, shutting down the megaplex and taking hostages (Paul's daughter and sweetheart among them), Jersey's most formidable mall cop will have to become a real cop to save the day.

★ ★ ★

Bride Wars
Friday 4:15 7:30 9:30
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:30
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30
Mon and Tues 4:15 7:30
Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG

Unborn
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon and Tues 4:25 7:20
Gary Oldman, Odette Yustman
Thriller, Supernatural • Rated PG 13

Gran Torino
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:10
Mon and Tues 4:10 7:10
Clint Eastwood, Bee Vang
Action, Drama, Thriller • Rated PG R

Bedtime Stories
Friday 4:05 7:25 9:45
Saturday 1:20 4:05 7:25 9:45
Sunday 1:20 4:05 7:25
Mon and Tues 4:05 7:25
Adam Sandler, Keri Russell
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

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Hair-loss sufferer dreads baring all to airport security

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman with alopecia (hair loss) who has gotten to the point where I now wear a hair-enhancement system that clips onto my real hair to stay in place. I am happy with it. My anxiety over the problem is gone.

However, the clips are metal, and now I'm wondering if I can ever fly on a plane again. I have seen little old ladies with hip replacements stopped by screeners. I know I would set off the alarm at the checkpoint.

Is there anything I can do to avoid this humiliation? Is there any provision for this sort of problem, or is it at the discretion of the airport security?

ANONYMOUS IN TEXAS

DEAR ANONYMOUS: According to Greg Soule, the public affairs spokesman for the Transportation Security Administration, even if the clips are small, they may set off the metal detector when you go through security. However, private screenings are available to anyone who requests them.

You should talk to a security officer in front of the checkpoint and ask to be screened privately. You will be taken from the public view and checked with a hand wand, among other screening techniques. If the clips are detected, a "pat down" and a visual inspection may have to be done to resolve the alarm.

You can bring a note from your physician explaining your condition, if having one helps your peace of mind. But they are not universally accepted because of concerns about fraudulent documents.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Alexa," and her boyfriend, "Ryan," were on vacation and went gambling. Ryan bet $400 at a craps table, handed Alexa the dice and told her to throw. She threw the whole night for him and won $2,500.

After they finished playing, Ryan put all the proceeds in his pocket. I thought it was unfair. Alexa says it's no big deal. I understand that the $400 was his, but she won $2,100 for him.

What's your opinion? Isn't this a red flag not to invest any more time in this relationship?

NOT BETTING ON THIS ONE

DEAR NOT BETTING: If Ryan's basic nature was generous, he would have split the winnings 50-50. I agree your daughter would have a happier life with someone whose interests are less selfish and more generous. However, if she isn't ready to end the relationship, advise her to have an arrangement with Ryan in advance the next time they go gambling so she'll get more out of the game than carpal tunnel syndrome.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm turning 40 this year, and I'm planning on throwing myself a party. Some people, including friends and people I have contacted to hire (a DJ, caterer, etc.), have told me they think it's strange that I am throwing a party for myself.

I'm not married or involved with anyone, and I really want to do this for myself. What are your thoughts? Is it OK to give yourself a party, or is it weird?

PLANNING FOR THE BIG 4-0

DEAR PLANNING: There is nothing unusual about people throwing parties for themselves to celebrate special occasions. I don't know where the DJ, caterer, etc., got the idea that it's weird. In fact, it's a foolproof way to guarantee that you have exactly the kind of party you want. So, go for it—and don't let anyone hold you back.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Report: Swayze says he's almost over pneumonia

NEW YORK (AP)—Days after checking himself into a Los Angeles hospital for pneumonia, Patrick Swayze says his condition is improving. The 56-year-old actor, who is battling pancreatic cancer, tells People magazine: "I am alive and plan on continuing to stay that way. ... I am almost in the clear."

Swayze says he checked into the hospital Jan. 9 because of a cough that he suspected was the result of an infection.

Swayze says: "I wanted to jump on it before it turned into a problem. As soon as I got home, I called my doctor and then went straight to the hospital and was immediately put on antibiotics."

In this image released by ABC, Barbara Walters, right, poses with actor Patrick Swayze at his California ranch on Dec. 6, 2008.
AP

Swayze's representatives did not respond to messages seeking comment on his health.

Last week, Swayze told ABC's Barbara Walters that his yearlong battle with pancreatic cancer put him "through hell" while he pushed ahead on his new TV series on A&E, "The Beast," which premieres Thursday.

Novel that inspired 'The Class' due out in English

NEW YORK (AP)—The French novel that inspired "The Class," one of last year's most acclaimed films, is coming out in English.

Francois Begaudeau's book, which literally translates to "Between the Walls" but will be titled "The Class," is a fictionalized account of the author's time as a high school teacher in France. Begadeau stars as himself in the film, directed by Laurent Cantet, winner of the Palme d'Or at Cannes and a strong candidate among foreign releases for an Academy Award nomination.

Seven Stories Press will publish the book in the United States in April.

NY deal reached over Monroe's last nude photos

AP
In this photo provided by Weingrad & Weingrad LLP, a copy of a transparency showing actress Marilyn Monroe made is Los Angeles in July, 1962 is shown.

NEW YORK (AP)—A legal fight over seven nude and seminude photographs taken during Marilyn Monroe's "Last Sitting" has been settled amicably, both sides of the dispute said Monday.

The pictures were among some 2,500 shots Bert Stern took of the movie star at the Bel Air Hotel in Los Angeles in 1962 for Vogue magazine just before her drug overdose death that year.

The photos show Monroe, star of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and other movies, in various gently erotic poses behind a piece of transparent, white gauzy fabric. Stern recreated the shots in February 2008 with actress Lindsay Lohan.

Stern, 78, sued three photographers for $1.7 million last year after they told him they had found seven film transparencies of the shoot. He said he believed the film had been stolen after he loaned it to now-defunct Eros magazine in the summer of 1962.

Photographers Donald Penny and Michael Weiss said colleague Robert Bryan had found the film in curbside garbage in midtown Manhattan in the 1970s and kept it in a shoe box as memorabilia for the last 35 years.

Their lawyer, Jamie Brickell, said Stern acknowledges in the settlement that his clients did nothing wrong. Brickell said Penny, Weiss and Bryan never asked Stern for any money; he said they only discussed returning the transparencies in exchange for a set of prints that they could keep.

Brickell and Stern's lawyer, Stephen Weingrad, said Stern, Penny and Weiss will develop nine sets of photos from the transparencies and sell them. He said the issue of how the proceeds are to be distributed is confidential.

"Since only nine sets of seven prints each will be produced, we are very excited," Weiss of Mount Kisco, N.Y., and Penny of Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., said through Brickell. "These are great shots of Marilyn Monroe. With the original film and the digital tools we now have at hand, we will be able to create wonderful, unique one-of-a-kind prints."

'Fantasy Island' star Montalban dies at 88

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ricardo Montalban, the Mexican-born actor who became a star in splashy MGM musicals and later as the wish-fulfilling Mr. Roarke in TV's "Fantasy Island," died Wednesday morning at his home, a city councilman said. He was 88. Montalban's death was announced at a city council meeting by president Eric Garcetti, who represents the district where the actor lived. Garcetti did not give a cause of death.

Montalban

"What you saw on the screen and on television and on talk shows, this very courtly, modest, dignified individual, that's exactly who he was," said Montalban's longtime friend and publicist David Brokaw.

Montalban had been a star in Mexican movies when MGM brought him to Hollywood in 1946. He was cast in the leading role opposite Esther Williams in "Fiesta," and starred again with the swimming beauty in "On an Island with You" and "Neptune's Daughter."

But Montalban was best known as the faintly mysterious, white-suited Mr. Roarke, who presided over a tropical island resort where visitors were able to fulfill their lifelong dreams—usually at the unexpected expense of a difficult life lesson. Following a floatplane landing and lei ceremony, he greeted each guest with the line: "I am Mr. Roarke, your host. Welcome to Fantasy Island."

The show ran from 1978 to 1984.

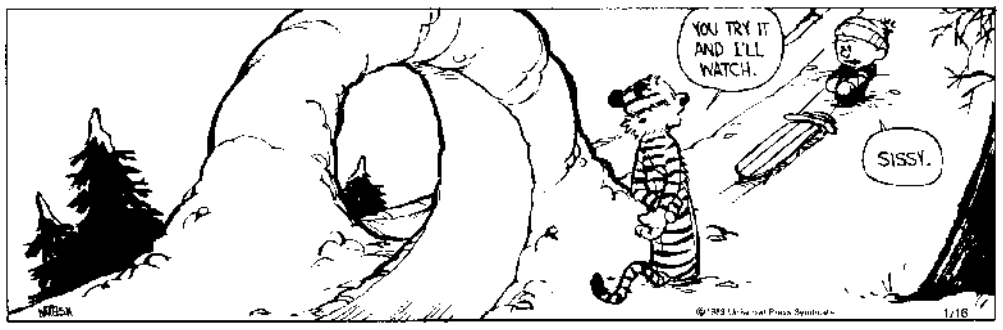
More recently, he appeared as villains in two hits of the 1980s: "Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan" and the farcical "The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad."

Between movie and TV roles, Montalban was active in the theater. He starred on Broadway in the 1957 musical "Jamaica" opposite Lena Horne, picking up a Tony nomination for best actor in a musical.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

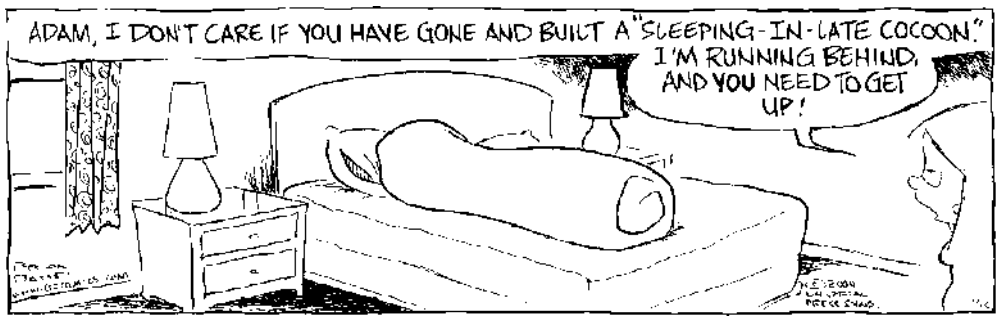


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW WAS YOUR MEAL?
BURP
I'M HAVING SHARP STABBING PAINS IN MY STOMACH.
I HOPE IT'S NOT FOOD POISONING
NO. ACTUALLY I THINK IT'S MY BELT BUCKLE
YOU SHOULD HAVE WORN YOUR EATING-OUT STRETCHY PANTS!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

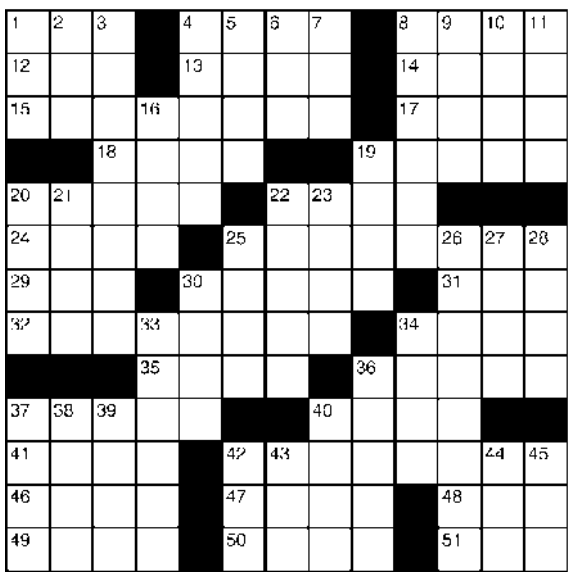
ACROSS
1 Poke
4 Prospector's hope
8 Rainout spread
12 Have bills
13 Bas n accessory
14 Disturb
15 California campus
17 "Do — others ..."
18 Show bad aim
19 Devoutness
20 Paratrooper's need
22 Palette selections
24 Stash
25 Look like
29 Altar constellation
30 Pugilist
31 Wet wigg er
32 Contemptible
34 Grouch
35 Coaster
36 Welk specialty
37 Cash recipient
40 Sandwich shop
41 Birthright barterer
42 Fed head Ben
46 Peel
47 Vicinity
48 A billion years
49 Shark variety
50 Sailing vessel
51 Disencumber

DOWN
1 Task
2 Shock partner
3 Shorts of a sort
4 Skein members
5 They give a hoot
6 Shelter
7 Parched
8 Self-evident statement
9 Highly rated
10 "Hud" director Martin
11 Tactic
16 Charlie Brown's nemesis, often
19 Equal
20 African nation
21 Take on
22 Under a spell
23 Second-hand
25 Got up
26 German capitalist?
27 Breach of secrecy
28 Exile isle
30 Acrimony
33 Phony
34 Pop choice
36 Of punishment
37 Salon request
38 Largest of the seven
39 Tug hard
40 Carey or Barrymore
42 Inlet
43 Historic time
44 Japanese pond carp
45 Conclusion

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	A	C	K	■	C	U	F	■	A	M	■	■	D
L	G	L	I	■	A	S	P	■	D	A	D	A	
M	A	U	■	■	M	A	O	■	O	U	S	T	
O	R	E	■	S	E	■	N	A	P	S	■	■	
■	■	■	J	E	L	L	Y	S	I	O	N	E	
C	O	C	O	A	■	■	M	S	■	■	O	X	
A	L	L	Y	■	M	A	S	■	P	E	R	E	
M	I	A	■	D	I	S	■	D	R	A	M	S	
P	O	U	N	C	S	T	O	N	E	■	■	■	
■	■	■	D	O	T	S	■	X	A	V	I	E	R
E	M	I	R	■	T	A	B	■	A	N	N	O	
L	O	U	I	■	E	G	O	■	I	G	O	I	
F	I	S	H	■	P	A	W	■	I	A	S	H	

Yesterday's answer 1-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mason Gamble, 23; Kate Moss, 35; John Carpenter, 61; Dr. Laura Schlessinger, 62

Happy Birthday: Don't let life's little aggravations get you down. Maintain a positive attitude—you have the pizzazz and the ability to market uniquely. You can get your emotional life back on track if you speak up about your own personal needs. Standing firm will lead to your success. Your numbers are 5, 13, 21, 26, 32, 43, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): If you stay calm, someone you have helped in the past will come to your rescue. You can make an impression with actions, not arguments. A dilemma regarding someone you love will preoccupy you if you let it. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Cover your responsibilities or someone will point out your shortcoming, causing trouble for you in the future. Know that you can't trust anyone who is looking to get ahead in a dog-eat-dog economy. Someone from your past will disappoint you again. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can make adjustments, take off on a trip, get involved in a life-changing experience or get back to past goals. Times are changing and you will be able to get ahead emotionally, personally and professionally. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You may be tempted to overspend on items for your home or the ones you love. Instead, you should be considering what you can offer in terms of a domestic service or product that will help you earn extra cash. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take time out to have a little fun with someone you enjoy but don't try to impress by paying for others. Stay within your means if you don't want to add to financial stress that will lead to greater trouble with loved ones. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look at things differently and you will come up with a solution to a work-related problem. A passionate encounter will lead to greater prosperity in your future. Don't rule out getting involved in a partnership. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep things simple. Refuse to argue or let your emotions get the better of you. You don't have to make a statement or take on a greater cause. Explain your position and move on without hesitation. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep a positive attitude. An unusual twist in your love life may be surprising but it will work out in your favor. Deception regarding a household matter must be diverted before it escalates. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Remember some of the goals you once had and the people who shared them with you and make an effort to touch base and see if the timing isn't better. You'll be surprised and pleased with the way things unfold. Make the first move and you'll maintain control. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't mix emotions with business if you want to get ahead. You can expect someone to talk big but have little to offer in the end. Be aware that you can probably get what you want on your own. You are more than capable. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You don't have to put up with anything or anyone holding you back or putting unreasonable demands on you. It's your turn to take advantage of the existing opportunities. Recognize your potential and put your plans in motion. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Use your intuition to know when to make a move, especially if it has to do with a collective group that may not see you for what you are worth. A past mistake can now be put to rest. Open up wholeheartedly and you will feel better about moving forward. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, passionate and you take a unique approach to money. You are your own person, regardless of what's popular.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5		2		4			
						6		4
	4				7			
6		4						2
			4	8	5			
1						8		7
			9				7	
8		1						
			5		2		9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	1	9	2	6	4	5	3	8
2	8	4	5	3	7	9	1	6
3	5	6	8	1	9	4	7	2
6	4	3	9	7	1	8	2	5
5	7	1	4	8	2	3	6	9
8	9	2	3	5	6	1	4	7
9	6	7	1	4	5	2	8	3
1	2	8	6	9	3	7	5	4
4	3	5	7	2	8	6	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The 6 flower letters spell the Wonderword.

KARL LAGERFELD Solution: 6 letters

N	M	S	F	G	(A)	M	I	C	H	C	N	U	A	I
O	I	D	A	(R)	D	J	A	C	K	E	T	S	H	A
C	L	T	(T)	N	E	M	O	W	A	N	E	T	W	I
I	A	(S)	A	R	A	F	W	O	T	Y	D	A	F	R
I	N	R	C	S	T	Y	L	E	S	E	C	H	A	E
A	B	N	A	R	I	V	E	R	T	L	O	D	R	T
B	S	O	L	U	L	U	C	A	A	I	U	R	I	A
U	T	I	L	O	R	L	R	B	G	S	T	E	N	M
D	I	T	A	T	T	O	E	N	I	A	U	S	G	L
N	F	C	S	A	B	L	I	R	D	B	R	S	S	A
A	T	E	Y	A	P	H	A	D	N	E	E	E	L	S
L	U	L	L	A	T	P	D	I	E	T	O	R	E	C
O	O	L	T	O	P	E	R	A	F	H	L	O	D	A
R	O	O	L	A	C	I	R	T	A	E	H	T	O	L
C	U	C	I	T	A	M	A	R	D	S	C	S	M	A

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Arts, Brand, Dallas, Chloe, Clothing, Collaborated, Collection, Couture, Diet, Dior, Dramatic, Dress, Dubai, Elisabeth, Fendi, Hats, Icon, Images, Jackets, Label, La Scala, Launch, Luca, Materia, Milan, Models, Opera, Outfits, Paris, Patou, Radio, Ready-To-Wear, Roland, Satin, Shoes, Stores, Styles, Taylor, Theatrical, Tours, Trevira, Wearing, Women

Yesterday's Answer: Gasconade

Sales: Periods of Wonderword fun appeal to people of all ages and skill levels. Wonderword books from Universal Uclick make terrific gifts for all occasions. Each book is available for just $6.95 plus shipping. Volumes 3 through 10 are also available. Volumes 9 and 10 are on sale for $5.95 each. Call 1-800-642-6480. Order online at uclick.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

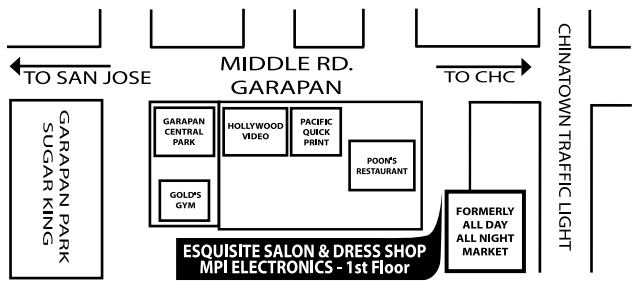
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

MULTIFAMILY GARAGE SALE

Saturday, January 17, 2009
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Find today's solution in this section

Would you like to be a mentor to a struggling student?

Are you driven to make a difference in the lives of others?

Brain Builders-Saipan, is looking for individuals interested in part time or full time work with a background in education, social work, physical therapy, speech therapy, nursing, or related fields. Job entails working with students with diagnosed learning difficulties, their schools, and families. Excellent opportunity to set your own hours, with good pay, and a rewarding career. Master's Degree preferred.

PACE
processing and cognitive enhancement

Please send resume to:
brainbuilding@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT

Sablan Enterprises, Inc. is looking for a MASON. Interested applicant may apply at 2nd Floor, VSS Plaza, Chalan Piao, Saipan, MP 96950

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedroom, 1 bathroom house centrally located in Garapan, equipped with a water tank, air conditioners in every room, nice, safe, and friendly neighborhood. NMHC applicants welcome. Please call 483-3848 for more information.

WHATZIT Solution:
Rock Around the Clock

WORLD RESORT
SAIPAN

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: January 1, 2009 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

Saipan World Resort is seeking for a professional Training Assistant Manager to work in a busy hotel industry. Salary and benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities to the successful candidate and in compliance to the CNMI laws.

POSITION TITLE: Training Assistant Manager
SALARY: $2,000.00/Month

NATURE OF WORK:

This position is located within the Department of Human Resources, Saipan World Resort. The incumbent is charged with the responsibility of conducting appropriate assigned workshops and trainings to increase worker's effectiveness on the job, improve morale, and prepare new employees to do jobs for which they are not trained. The incumbent is also charged with the responsibility to research, develop and to put together findings into some type of meaningful and effective training package. The incumbent is supervised by the Manager of Human Resources.

MINIMUM QUALIFCATIONS:

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a BA degree in education, plus five (5) years of actual training experience in hotel industry, of which two (2) years must be teaching/training in resort hotel business.

Interested individuals may pick up an application from the Security Office, Saipan World Resort. Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational credentials, police clearance addressed to the following:

Miriam K. Seman, Manager
Human Resources Department
Saipan World Resort
P.O. Box 500066 Saipan, MP 96950

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Log on to www.saipantribune.com

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
RFQ09-GOV-042

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROVISION OF ARCHITECT AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

702 CIP Project Managers

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez through the Office of Capital Improvement (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting Statements of Qualifications from architect and engineers to provide project manager services for designated federally funded projects.

The Commonwealth has current needs for project manager services and is anticipating additional requirements during the 2009 and 2010 calendar years. Specific project assignments are dependent upon needs of the Commonwealth and may include oversight of: project planning; permitting; design; construction activities; and close-out.

Selected architects and engineers ("Project Managers") will be retained as independent contractors under the general supervision of the Contracting Officer or his designee. Project Managers will act as agent of the expenditure authority on assigned capital projects to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within: cost; time; and legal requirements; while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected Project Managers will be retained on a one-year contract with an option to renew for an additional year at discretion of the Commonwealth.

Compensation for project manager services will be determined based on the required project management services for each assigned project. The Commonwealth will negotiate with selected Project Managers to determine the required scope of services for assigned responsibilities. Individuals or firms selected to serve as project managers would be precluded from providing any other services associated with the assigned project.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work and submittal requirements ("Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements") at the Office of Capital Improvement 1356 Mednilla Ave. Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4: 30 p.m. - Monday through Friday, except holidays). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements. A pre-proposal conference is schedule for this RFQ on January 26, 2009 at 9 a.m. in the Governor's Conference Room Capitol Hill. All submitted documents must follow submittal requirements.

Selection of individuals for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement& Supply, Procurement Regulations § 7070-30.3-305. Five copies of qualifications should be submitted to the Commonwealth Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 in a sealed envelope marked "Project Manager Qualifications RFQ09 – GOV - 042."

Qualifications must be received prior to noon of January 30, 2009 ("Closing Date") from individuals or firms residing within the Commonwealth. Individuals or firms residing outside the Commonwealth may receive an additional five (5) calendar days from the Closing Date for receipt of their qualifications, upon filing a notice of intent to submit qualifications ("Notice of Intent") with the Division of Procurement & Supply by 11:00 a.m. local time January 27, 2009.

Notice of Intent may be transmitted in any of the following forms: direct delivery; transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515; or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com; however, the individual or firm transmitting a Notice of Intent bears all risk of proper functioning of equipment. For proposers located outside the CNMI who have filed a Notice of Intent, all required documents must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service of the foreign country no later than the Closing Date and must be received no later than five calendar days after the Closing Date.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following factors:

1. Past experience as a project manager – 35%
2. References – 30%
3. Interview – 35%

Interviews will be conducted with the individuals who are determined to have the most appropriate qualifications for the needs of the Commonwealth. Architect and engineering firms may submit qualifications, however, they must identify qualifications of specific individuals who are to be considered for the provision of these services and evaluation of qualifications will be based on the experience, references, and interview of the designated individual.

This project is funded through grants from the United States Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) with local matching funds. Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the government. All submitted documents shall become the property of the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 09-006

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Laptop and Desktop Computer Systems & Accessories and others for Marianas High School (MHS).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-006" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **February 04, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-006" CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-GOV-037

Roof Repair of Department of Finance Buildings
(Office of the Secretary of Finance, Finance & Accounting and Treasury Buildings)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, are soliciting sealed bids for the Roof Repair of three (3) Department of Finance Buildings, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

1. Office of the Secretary of Finance Building
2. Treasury Building
3. Finance and Accounting Building

The project package will be available on January 21, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. A $70.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Prefference Act, as ammended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by the CNMI and Federal laws.

There will be a mandatory Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on February 02, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the Secretary of Finance Building Parking Lot, Capitol Hill. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on February 02, 2009 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB09-GOV-037"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, February 06, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:00 p.m. local time February 06, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 06, 2009 and must be received no later than February 17, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, February 19, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on February 10, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is Sixty **(60)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars **($100.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Secretary of Finance
Department of Finance

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 09-007

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Laptop Computer Systems and Accessories for William S. Reyes Elementary School (WSRES).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-007" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **February 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-007" CONFIDENTIAL – Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Spurs beat Lakers in West finals rematch

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Roger Mason hit a jumper with 10 seconds left and made a free throw after being fouled by Derek Fisher, and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Los Angeles Lakers 112-111 on Wednesday night in the first meeting between the teams since the Western Conference finals.

After Mason's three-point play, the Lakers failed to get a shot off when Trevor Ariza was called for traveling with .8 left.

The Lakers rallied from 11 points behind in the fourth quarter and led when Kobe Bryant hit a 3-pointer with 12 seconds left.

The Spurs called timeout and worked the ball over the Mason in the corner, where he was bumped from behind by Fisher while shooting from about 16 feet.

It was Fisher who was not called for a foul when Brent Barry tried to get off a last-second shot for the Spurs last year in the conference-finals series.

"I saw him try to reach for the ball," Mason said. "I wanted to get a little contact and then get the shot off. When I fell down, I looked up and saw it go in.

"I just didn't want to ruin it (by missing the free throw). I knew we needed that point."

Mason, signed by the Spurs as a free agent after playing in Washington, also hit a last-second 3-pointer to beat Phoenix on the road on Christmas Day.

Manu Ginobili led San Antonio with 27 points, and Bryant had 29 for Los Angeles. The Lakers lost for only the second time in their last 12 games.

The Lakers won the playoff series last year in five games losing the NBA finals to Boston. The Lakers and Spurs will play twice more this season.

Ginobili, the Sixth Man of the Year last season, was 9-of-15 from the field in his usual role off the bench for the Spurs, 10-2 in their last 12 and 25-12 overall.

The Spurs led 102-91 early in the fourth quarter on Tony Parker's layup. But the Lakers scored nine straight points to cut it to 102-100 with 4:45 left.

AP

San Antonio Spurs guard Roger Mason, Jr. (8), center, is fouled by Los Angeles Lakers guard Derek Fisher (2), rear, as he shoots to tie the game during the fourth quarter of their NBA basketball game in San Antonio, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009.

Hornets 104, Mavericks 97

At Dallas, Chris Paul nearly showed Jason Kidd what a quadruple-double looks like, putting up 33 points, 11 assists, 10 rebounds and seven steals in New Orleans' win over Dallas.

Paul had to settle for his fourth triple-double of the season, one he's certain to savor because it came against Kidd, the active leader in that category and the guy who started ahead of him at point guard on the gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic team.

Dallas' Jason Terry scored 28 points, and Dirk Nowitzki had 20 points and 13 rebounds, but the Mavericks dropped their fourth straight.

Kings 135, Warriors 133, 3OT

At Oakland, California, John Salmons hit a 17-foot shot with 1.6 seconds remaining in the third overtime as Sacramento held on to beat Golden State.

Salmons finished with 25 points, a career-best 14 rebounds and seven assists for Sacramento, which has consecutive victories against the Warriors for the first time since taking 15 in a row from 2000-03.

Brad Miller had a season-high 30 points and a career-high 22 rebounds for Sacramento.

Celtics 118, Nets 86

At Boston, Paul Pierce shook off a cold first half and scored 18 points in the third quarter with perfect shooting to lead Boston past New Jersey for its third straight win.

Pierce went 5-for-5 in the period, all 3-pointers, and added three free throws as he scored 22 points two nights after getting a season-high 39 in an overtime win over Toronto. Kevin Garnett scored 20 points for the Celtics, who have emerged from a surprising 2-7 slump after going 27-2, the best 29-game start in NBA history.

Devin Harris led New Jersey with 17 points.

Knicks 128, Wizards 122

At New York, David Lee had 30 points and 10 rebounds, reserve Al Harrington scored 27 points, and New York handed Washington its sixth straight loss.

Quentin Richardson added 26 points for the Knicks, who have piled up the points in the first three meetings with the Wizards this season and can complete a season sweep Friday night in Washington in the back end of the home-and-home series.

Washington's Nick Young scored 33 points, establishing a career high for the third time in four games, and Caron Butler added 25.

Pacers 110, Pistons 106, OT

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 24 points and made the tying shot for Indiana with 3.9 seconds left in regulation to beat Detroit.

T.J. Ford scored 23 points, and Troy Murphy added 18 points and 13 rebounds to help the Pacers snap a three-game losing streak.

Rodney Stuckey led Detroit with 30 points.

76ers 100, Trail Blazers 79

At Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala scored a season-high 29 points, and Lou Williams had 14 to lead Philadelphia past Portland for its fifth straight victory.

Iguodala made four of Philadelphia's season-high 11 3-pointers and just missed becoming the first Sixers player to score 30 points in a game this season.

Brandon Roy led Portland with 27 points.

Bulls 102, Raptors 98

At Toronto, Derrick Rose scored 17 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter and added 10 assists for Chicago, and Luol Deng had 16 points and 14 rebounds in a win over Toronto.

Andrea Bargnani had a career-high 31 points and finished with 10 rebounds for Toronto. Chris Bosh added 25 points for the Raptors.

Thunder 114, Jazz 93

At Oklahoma City, Jeff Green scored 23 points, Russell Westbrook added 22 and Kevin Durant had 21 as Oklahoma City used a 22-7 third-quarter run to take control of Utah.

The victory was the seventh of the season for the Thunder and their fourth in eight games. Deron Williams scored 25 points for Utah.

Heat 102, Bucks 99

At Milwaukee, reserve Daequan Cook hit six 3-pointers and had a career-high 24 points for Miami, and former Marquette star Dwyane Wade overcame a 5-for-20 shooting night with 17 points and 13 assists in a victory over Milwaukee.

Luke Ridnour had 25 points for Milwaukee.

Hawks 97, Clippers 80

At Los Angeles, Josh Smith scored 26 points and Joe Johnson added 21 as Atlanta ended a four-game losing streak while handing Los Angeles its 12th straight loss.

Al Thornton scored 25 points, and rookie Eric Gordon added 18 for the Clippers, who haven't won since a 117-109 double-overtime victory at Indiana on Dec. 19.

Some baseball owners call for salary cap

PARADISE VALLEY, Ariz. (AP)—Some baseball owners say it may be time to reconsider a salary cap after the New York Yankees spent nearly a half-billion dollars on free agents during a recession that may cause some teams to retrench.

"I would ask, if it's such a bad idea, what sport doesn't have a salary cap other than us?" Milwaukee Brewers owner Mark Attanasio said Wednesday.

A salary cap isn't on the agenda of the major league owners meetings this week. But it could become an issue when the present collective bargaining agreement expires after the 2011 season—especially if the economy worsens.

"I think there's a lot of owners that would like to have that right now," Oakland owner Lew Wolff said. "I think the parity is what we're looking for, and the more ways you can get to parity the better. I think it's pretty good now, but I think it could be better.

"It's a very good question, because maybe this recession, depression, whatever we're in may be a change for a lot more years," Wolff said.

The bleak economy was on the owners' minds as they gathered at an exclusive mountainside resort to begin two days of meetings. Owners compared notes on ticket sales and sponsorships and other indicators of the economy's squeeze and were set to consider proposals Thursday to eliminate the possibility of rain-shortened postseason games and to change the method of determining sites of tiebreaker games to head-to-head record rather than coin flips.

Wolff said the Athletics' ticket sales are down about 10 percent from a year ago. The Brewers lost Mercedes-Benz as a sponsor but added a presenting sponsorship agreement with Potawatomi Bingo Casino—part of an expected double-digit percentage gain in sponsorship revenue.

The Chicago Cubs are for sale, but the economy hasn't cooled the ardor of the club's long-suffering fans. Chairman Crane Kenney said the waiting list for season tickets to Wrigley Field recently surged past 100,000. Kenney said the Cubs' recent playoff appearances have given fans hope that the team is poised to win its first World Series since 1908.

"I think our fans are starting to sense that the end (of the title drought) is coming, and they want to be there for the party," Kenney said. "We're in a real good spot. We don't take it for granted."

Some owners, especially those in low-revenue areas, say a cap would give smaller markets a fair shot at signing top talent.

"There's no question that, a market like Pittsburgh, a salary cap would be advantageous," Pirates owner Bob Nutting said.

The Yankees' offseason spending spree has sparked renewed talk of a cap, an issue owners haven't brought up in negotiations since the disastrous 1994-95 strike that wiped out the World Series for the first time in 90 years. But not all owners are critical of the Yankees' acquisition of pitchers CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett and infielder Mark Teixeira.

"I have no problem with what they've done," Kenney said. "They've done it within the rules, within the confines of our agreement.

"And if you look at the reality there, they've got a $1.3 billion stadium coming online," Kenney said. "They were probably relying on Wall Street to fill a lot of those seats. And they missed the playoffs for the first time in 13 years. So their reaction is probably similar to what I would do, which is, you've got to put a compelling product on the field when you open the doors of that new ballpark, and that's what they did."

Heisman winner Bradford staying at Oklahoma

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford wasn't ready to give up the life of a college quarterback—not without a national championship.

The third-year sophomore quarterback will return to Oklahoma next season, passing on a chance to be a high NFL draft pick.

"I've dreamed about playing at Oklahoma since I was little, and my three years here have been probably three of the best years of my life, and I really feel that there's no need to cut this experience short," Bradford said Wednesday at a news conference.

"I'm really looking forward to coming back and competing for a fourth straight Big 12 championship and another opportunity at a national championship."

His return also means another shot at a Heisman Trophy. Archie Griffin of Ohio State is the only player to win two Heismans. Florida quarterback Tim Tebow, the 2007 winner, finished third behind Bradford in the Heisman voting this season.

For the first time, the top-three vote-getters for the Heisman Trophy will return to college football. Tebow announced his intentions Sunday and Texas quarterback Colt McCoy said he'd be back for his senior season long before the Longhorns won the Fiesta Bowl.

Bradford led the nation with 50 touchdown passes and a quarterback rating of 180.8. He likely would have been one of the first quarterbacks taken in April's draft.

AP

Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford smiles as he announces that he will return for his junior year at Oklahoma, during a news conference in Norman, Okla., Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009.

Instead, Bradford will take another run at a national championship with Oklahoma. The record-breaking quarterback led the Sooners to the BCS championship game this season, but they lost 24-14 to Florida.

"Obviously it's frustrating to end with a loss and I want to come back and finish my career the right way: on a win," Bradford said. "I would say it had a little bit of an influence on my decision, but I really tried to keep that out of my mind because that could have limited myself to making the best decision for me."

Bradford also let it slip that tight end Jermaine Gresham and offensive lineman Trent Williams also decided not to enter the draft early. Defensive tackle Gerald McCoy has also said he'll be back for another season with the Sooners.

Sooners coach Bob Stoops, who took the podium after Bradford, went as far as saying all of the Sooners' third-year players will be back next season.

"All the guys who are thinking about leaving, they're classmates of mine," Bradford said. "We came in together. We've kind of gone through everything together. We did talk to each other and let each other know how we were feeling."

When asked what he liked about college football, Bradford answered: "Everything."

"You come out here and get to play in front of 85,000 people everyday. This state is a football state. Everyone knows about Oklahoma football. I've grown up watching it," Bradford said. "Just having this experience and being able to live my dream."

Stoops said Wednesday was a more important day than signing day for the Sooners, bringing back so many players who'll play a key role next season. Oklahoma already loses four starters on the offensive line and three receivers from the nation's top-scoring offense. Losing Bradford, Gresham and Williams would have been devastating.

The returning trio represent quite a turnaround from last season, when linebacker Curtis Lofton, receiver Malcolm Kelly and cornerback Reggie Smith all left after their junior season. Only Lofton was a first-round pick.

"Not one of them went where they were projected on TV or what everyone talked about," Stoops said. "They went where their draft projection (from the NFL) was. None of them were ahead of their draft projection, but the TV all had them above their draft projection."

Gresham and Williams each issued statements through Oklahoma's athletic department looking forward to next season and addressing their hopes to complete or at least make progress toward their college degrees.

"I think they're sending a great message to a lot of other young people in the value of that last year or going as far as you can in your college career," Stoops said.

Each of the others will also play key roles in Bradford's success next year. Gresham caught 14 touchdown passes, including two in the BCS title game, to rank second on the team, and Williams could be the one protecting Bradford's blind side.

"I always feel, `Why not have your cake and eat it, too?' Why not have all you want here, and still he's only going to get bigger and stronger in everything that he does," Stoops said.

"I think he only can improve his position a year from now."

Boldin practices, says he'll play Sunday

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—Arizona receiver Anquan Boldin practiced Wednesday, and says he will play in Sunday's NFC championship game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Boldin, who with Larry Fitzgerald forms arguably the best receiving tandem in football, said a trip to a Dallas chiropractor has greatly improved his strained left hamstring. The injury kept Boldin out of the Cardinals' 33-13 victory at Carolina in Saturday's divisional playoff game.

"I'll be out there Sunday," he said after practice.

Boldin said he was able to participate in all phases of practice, but in shorter spurts than normal.

He said he expected to be "real effective" in what would be the biggest game of his career.

"I don't see there being any problems, no hindrances or anything like that," Boldin said. "I'll just be myself and resume my regular role."

Coach Ken Whisenhunt held out final judgment on Boldin's status until he sees how the receiver does as the week progresses, but the coach was optimistic.

"If he continues to progress like we think he is, I have no doubts he would play," Whisenhunt said.

Boldin injured his hamstring on a 71-yard touchdown pass from Kurt Warner in the second quarter of Arizona's 30-24 wild card playoff victory over Atlanta. He tested the hamstring before the Carolina game and said he would have played if the team's medical staff had let him.

"Would it have been the smartest thing in the world? No," Boldin said, "but that's just me wanting to be on the field."

Boldin said the hamstring problem turned out to be related to a hip injury that sidelined him for three games last season.

"I thought it was just a hamstring but the way that my body responded told me that it was something different," Boldin said.

He flew to Dallas on Monday for treatment from chiropractor Robert Parker, whose patients include Boldin's former teammate Emmitt Smith. As Boldin explained, the earlier injury affected the muscles around the hip and eventually led to the hamstring problem.

"Muscles shut off, muscles around it worked extra hard," Boldin said. "...Correcting that and getting everything flowing the way it's supposed to helped out a lot. He told me once he set it straight it would be fine."

Boldin said he would do "as much as they allow me to" in practice this week.

"We're just playing it by ear right now," he said. "We're going to be smart about it because the ultimate goal is to play on Sunday."

He scoffed at any suggested that his participation would be limited.

"If I'm out there," Boldin said, "I'm out there."

Boldin caught 89 passes for 1,038 yards and 11 touchdowns in the regular season, despite missing four games with injuries.

His facial bones were fractured on a brutal hit from the New York Jets' Eric Smith on Sept. 28. Smith was fined $50,000 and suspended a game because of the hit, although Boldin that it was "just football."

Boldin had seven plates and more than 40 screws inserted to repair the damage. Still, he missed only two games.

Such experiences make him grateful to be back.

"I'm thankful for every day I step out on the field," he said. "I've had a number of injuries that probably could have been career ending, but I've been given a second chance. Every time I step out I think of that."

He also cherishes another shot at the Eagles, because he felt he didn't play well in Philadelphia's 48-20 Thanksgiving night rout of Arizona.

"It's rare you get a second chance at anything," Boldin said, "so I'll make the most of it Sunday."

Pioli won't say whether Edwards is out

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—If Herm Edwards is on his way out as head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs, his new boss isn't saying.

In his first news conference since being hired as the final authority on all Chiefs football operations, new general manager Scott Pioli would go no further Wednesday than to say he intends to visit with Edwards.

"I have a lot of respect for Herm. I had a chance to visit with Herm today," said Pioli, who spent the last nine years helping Bill Belichick build a dynasty in New England.

Pioli is not unfamiliar with Edwards. The Patriots and New York Jets played each other twice a year during the four seasons Edwards was head coach in New York. Edwards is 15-34 in three years in Kansas City and has one year left on a four-year, $12 million contract.

"I've got a lot of respect for Herm on a professional level and a personal level. This entire thing is going to be a process," Pioli said.

There have been reports that Edwards, 2-23 in his last 25 games, was on his way out.

"Contrary to reports that were out there, we're going to spend some time talking about Herm," said Pioli. "I'm actually looking forward to it."

Edwards and his staff were 6-26 in their last two years, the worst span in team history. They have been waiting to learn their fate since Dec. 15, when Carl Peterson resigned after 20 years as president, CEO and general manager.

Australian Open: Nadal, Jankovic No. 1s

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Top-ranked Rafael Nadal will be the No. 1 seed at the Australian Open starting Monday, ending Roger Federer's four-year run atop the Melbourne Park draw.

Jelena Jankovic, one of six women to hold the No. 1 ranking last season, also received a top seed for the year's first major, with three-time Australian Open champion Serena Williams seeded second.

Federer is the No. 2 seed on the men's side.

Nadal beat Federer in the French Open and Wimbledon finals last season. After winning the Olympic gold medal at Beijing in August, the 22-year-old Spaniard snapped Federer's record 237 consecutive weeks at No. 1.

He withdrew from the Masters Series event in Paris with tendinitis in his right knee and didn't play in the season-ending Masters Cup or Spain's Davis Cup final win over Argentina.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic was given the No. 3 seed and Scottish player Andy Murray, who comes into the tournament off wins at an Abu Dhabi exhibition and at the Qatar Open.

With Nikolay Davydenko withdrawing because of a heel injury, Frenchmen Jo-Wilfried Tsonga—who beat Nadal in the semifinals here last year and then lost the final—received the No. 5 seed, with Gilles Simon at No. 6.

American Andy Roddick, the 2003 U.S. Open champion and a three-time semifinalist at the Australian Open, was seeded seventh.

Russia's Dinara Safina and Elena Dementieva, the Olympic finalists, were seeded third and fourth, respectively, behind Jankovic and Williams.

Last year's Australian Open runner-up Ana Ivanovic was the fifth seed and Wimbledon champion Venus Williams was sixth.

Defending champion Maria Sharapova has been sidelined since just after Wimbledon with an injured right shoulder and is not defending her title in Australia.

The draw for the Australian Open will be held Friday.

HEO

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draw was Samoa's Prince Matautia, who had an early exit in the tournament after bowing to No. 11 seed Nick Wedge, 6-1, 6-2, in the first round.

Heo's three other teammates were at the bottom half of the main draw with siblings Tony and William O'Connell of Fiji becoming the first casualties on the group losing to Mitchell Gleeson of Natya, Victoria, 3-6, 1-6, and John Meadows of Hawthorn, Victoria, 6-3, 6-0, respectively, in the first round.

The Cook Islands' Elias Tukarao won his first match beating Russell Rayner of Congupn, Victoria in three hard fought sets, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3. Solomon Islands' Luke Paeni also survived his first match topping Ben Coffey, 6-2, 6-3.

But Paeni and Tukarao were booted out in the Round of 32 bowing to No. 14 seed Nicholas Fenaughty, 6-2, 6-1, and, Meadows 6-2, 6-3, respectively.

The tournament in Victoria is Heo's last in Australia. He and his teammates will go to New Zealand next week to compete in three tournaments.

Heo will be seeing action in tournaments in Canterbury, Auckland, and Wellington.

The CNMI netter was invited to compete in tournaments in Australia and New Zealand after placing second in the boys' 18-and-under division of the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

His impressive showings in the two tournaments Down Under is a big boost to Heo's bid to regain his tough form after losing several matches in Japan, Korea, and the Philippines following his nagging ankle injuries.

FESTIVAL

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vide fast and accurate results for each athlete. The course was also re-measured last month by Bridge Enterprise of Japan, and turnaround points have changed slightly to ensure accuracy of course distance. Returning Japan celebrity Okushi Erika and 30 travel agents competing as members of a Northwest Airlines familiarization tour are among those joining the event.

"The Winter Festival of Runs is one of our annual signature events designed to showcase the attraction of our islands. We're expecting our beautiful weather in January to make an impact on competitors coming from winter climates," said Tenorio. "We're ready and looking forward to another year of new records and lasting memories."

Orientation for all participants is mandatory and will be held at 4pm today, Jan. 16, at American Memorial Park Amphitheater. The orientation will include a briefing on the new timing system and distribution of bibs containing the timing chip, followed by a carbo spaghetti dinner party at 5pm. The last day to register will be Jan. 16 from 4pm to 7:30pm at the orientation.

Register for the full marathon is now $45 and the half marathon and 10k is $35. No entries will be accepted on the day of the race.

The start time for the marathon will be 4:30am, and the half marathon and 10k run will begin at 5:45am. The awards banquet will be held the same day at 12:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan garden.

All runners will begin at Micro Beach at American Memorial Park within view of Managaha Island. The Full Marathon Course: from Micro Beach north along Middle Road through the villages of Puerto Rico, Tanapag, and San Roque; turnaround in the peaceful greenery of Marpi right before reaching the Far East Broadcasting Company turnoff; return to connect with the Half Marathon Course. The Half Marathon Course: from Micro Beach south on Beach Road along Saipan's western lagoon; through the villages of Garapan, San Jose, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, and San Antonio; turnaround at the YTT Gold Building at the road entrance to San Antonio church; return and finish at Micro Beach. The 10-km Course: Micro Beach south along Beach Road; through the villages of Garapan and San Jose; turnaround in-front of Pacific Outlet; return and finish at Micro Beach.

Outer southbound lanes will be closed on the course the morning of the event, and drivers are asked to exercise caution and follow police direction. Additionally, roadside parking in Garapan will be closed on the outer southbound lane from the Department of Public Safety sub-station south to Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center from 3am to 12pm on Saturday.

The age divisions for the full marathon are up to 40, 40-49, and 50 years and up. The half and 10k age groups are 14 and under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60 plus. Prizes will be given out for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category. Raffle drawings for prizes will also be held at the banquet. All runners will receive a finisher's t-shirt after the event.

Major sponsors of the event are: Northwest Airlines, Oakley, MVA, Northern Mariana Athletics, and DFS Galleria Saipan. Supporting companies and agencies are Department of Public Safety, Hawaiian Rock, American Memorial Park, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Works (Roads and Grounds), Commonwealth Health Center, and Ahn Corporation of Japan.

MVA is also gearing up for the 2nd Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run on Jan. 31, 2009.

To register for the Winter Festival or Runs or for more information, contact Ed Diaz of MVA at telephone numbers 1-670-664-3210 or email at ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Joshua Berger nears the finish line in last month's Christmas Island Relay. Berger and other running enthusiasts on island will gather this Saturday for the 2009 Winter Festival of Runs.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

BCS

From Page 36

the last two which gives a better overall picture of what's going on with conferences.

The most underrated, over maligned league is the Pac10 with a record of 9-2, thereby justifying a miffed Trojan Nation for being excluded from the champs game.

The SEC is right there with them making six more bowl appearances, thanks to more quality teams, to compile a gaudy 13-4 record. The SEC has won the last three championships and is now 5-0 in BCS championship games. That makes the case for automatically putting the SEC champion into the BCS final.

With a 7-3 record the Mountain West conference is a surprisingly third best, meaning Utah deserves more respect.

The Big 12 is an impressive 9-6, similar to the Big East at 7-4. In retrospect, Texas may have given Florida a better game than Oklahoma.

Here's the fact: the Gators blanketed the Sooner receivers and held the highest scoring team in college history to 40 points below their average. There is no reason not to believe that Florida would also shut down Texas. For the record, no team played more bowl teams this season than the Gators who went 10-1 in those contests. Those opponents went 8-3 in bowl games.

In other words, the BCS got it right by getting a deserving champion.

The most overrated conferences have to be the ACC and Big 10. No conference has sent more teams to bowls over the last two years than the ACC which has gone 6-12. Likewise, the Big Ten stinks up the postseason with a sorry 4-11 record.

The worst conference record belongs to the Mid-American at 0-11. The Western Athletic is next at 2-7.

The final argument for keeping the BCS is that it makes college football one of the most talked about and hotly debated sports in the country. Seeing how arguing is one of sport fan's favorite pastimes, that's a good thing.

President Obama should not worry about getting a college playoff system. Instead he should concentrate on more important things, such as getting a Russian-Chinese visa waiver program going for the CNMI.

BACK-TO-BACK

From Page 36

defeat at the hands of Marianas High School.

In their debut game, the Lady Rays had only five players contributing on offense with their highest scorer making only six markers.

Yesterday, Joseph led all scorers with 13 markers, and six others made it into the scoreboard.

For the Lady Ayuyus, the 13-point win over Southern was a fitting follow-up of their 52-42 triumph over Mt. Carmel School during the opening of the league last week.

Kagman's boys team was debuting Southern last night, but results of the game were unavailable at press time.

Today, Kagman will go for win No. 3 when it faces MHS. Today, the Ayuyus will duel the MHS Dolphins, who beat the Rays in their debut, 63-55.

The Lady Ayuyus will also battle the Lady Dolphins today with the former aiming for win No. 3.

KHS 44—Mesa 9, Repeki 8, Cabrera 7, Mizutani 6, Hofschneider 4, Yvo. Bennett 4, Yve. Bennett 2, Aldan 2, Emul 2.

SSHS 31—Joseph 13, Maratita 6, Babauta 5, Mendiola 4, Flores 2, Sikyang 1.

Scoring by quarters: 8-5, 26-12, 34-22, 44-31.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	9	.780	_
New Jersey	19	20	.487	12
Philadelphia	18	20	.474	12 1/2
New York	15	22	.405	15
Toronto	16	24	.400	15 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	31	8	.795	_
Atlanta	23	15	.605	7 1/2
Miami	21	17	.553	9 1/2
Charlotte	15	24	.385	16
Washington	7	31	.184	23 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	30	6	.833	_
Detroit	22	15	.595	8 1/2
Milwaukee	19	22	.463	13 1/2
Chicago	17	22	.436	14 1/2
Indiana	14	25	.359	17 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	25	12	.676	_
New Orleans	23	12	.657	1
Houston	24	16	.600	2 1/2
Dallas	22	17	.564	4
Memphis	11	27	.289	14 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	26	13	.667	_
Portland	23	15	.605	2 1/2
Utah	23	16	.590	3
Minnesota	11	26	.297	14
Oklahoma City	7	33	.175	19 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	31	7	.816	_
Phoenix	22	13	.629	7 1/2
Golden State	11	29	.275	21
Sacramento	10	30	.250	22
L.A. Clippers	8	30	.211	23

Yesterday's Games

Chicago 102, Toronto 98
Indiana 110, Detroit 106, OT
Philadelphia 100, Portland 79
Boston 118, New Jersey 86
New York 128, Washington 122
Miami 102, Milwaukee 99
Oklahoma City 114, Utah 93
New Orleans 104, Dallas 97
San Antonio 112, L.A. Lakers 111
Atlanta 97, L.A. Clippers 80
Sacramento 135, Golden State 133, 3OT

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Men's Division

DCCA	9	0
Freedom Air	8	1
CPA	7	1
Joeten Motors	7	2
No Zone	7	2
Beach Boys	6	2
Legislature	6	4
Docomo	6	4
DLNR	5	5
DEQ/CRM	5	5
POI	4	4
P & S	3	4
Law & Order	3	6
PSS	3	6
CUC	3	7
Customs	2	6
CHC	2	6
PIC	2	7
Hopwood	0	8
Mayors	1	9

Women's Division

NMC	7	1
DCCA	3	3
Finance	3	4
CUC	3	4
CHC	1	5

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL LEADERS

MEN'S DIVISION

Batting Leaders

Name	Team Ave.	
Ned Norita	No Zone	.762
BJ Sablan	Beach Boys	.760
Payton Sakuma	Docomo	.739
Roy Celis	Freedom Air	.714
JJ Laniyo	Joeten Jets	.708
Tony Luzama	POI	.682
Joey Dela Cruz	DCCA	.679
Mel Manahane	CPA	.679
Reno Celis	Freedom Air	.679
Tony Celis	Legislature	.679
Jun Saralu	DCCA	.677
Ben Taisacan	Joeten Jets	.667
Jack Diaz	CPA	.652
Mel Sakisat	DCCA	.645
Paul Lisua	DLNR	.628

Runs: (20) Joey Dela Cruz, (19) Jerry Ayuyu, Julian Camacho, (16) Mel Sakisat, Payton Sakuma.
Doubles: (8) J.J. Laniyo, (7) Tony Luzama (6), Oscar Sablan, Nick Guerrero, (5) Shane Yamada, Tony Celis, Chris Alepuyo, Paul Lizama, Cliffton Silil.
Triples: (4) Ben Taisacan, (3) Carl Hocog, Ben Tagabuel, Jun Saralu, Mel Sakisat, Bill Benavente, Pete Teigita, Kyle Kaipat.
Homeruns: (9) Byron Kaipat, (8) Joey Dela Cruz, (6) Roy Celis, (5) Peter Teigita, B.J. Sablan.
RBIs: (26) Byron Kaipat, (24) Jerry Ayuyu, Pete Teigita, (21) Joey Dela Cruz, (20) Payton Sakuma.

Pitching Leaders

Name	Team	ERA
Roque Camacho	Freedom Air	1.69
Mel Sakisat	DCCA	3.82
Steve Igisair	Beach Boys	4.38
Carl Hocog	No Zone	4.48
Perry Besong	Legislature	4.62
Ed Mendiola	CPA	4.74
John Terlaje	PSS	4.78
Mike Sablan	P&S	5.25
Frank Shiro	CUC	5.25
Shine Tenorio	Joeten Jets	5.32

Strikeouts: (15) Esang Olkeriil, (13) Steve Igisair, J.J. Salas, Ruben Olkeriil, (11) Leo Bobai, Tom Sakuma, (10) Mel Sakisat, Fernando Camacho.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Batting Leaders

Name	Team	Ave.
Bert Camacho	DCCA	.708
Liz Lebria	Finance	.667
Antonette Laniyo	DCCA	.619
Angela Ngirbedul	NMC	.571
Bego Camacho	Finance	.571
Joyce Taro	NMC	.563
Lilian Pangelinan	Finance	.545
Lenise Kapileo	Finance	.542
Jenny Teigita	DCCA	.524
Lilian Aguon	Finance	.522
Erica Tenorio	DCCA	.500
Julie Guerrero	Finance	.500
Kuki Pangelinan	NMC	.500
Pauline Camacho	NMC	.455
Pauline Tudela	Finance	.450

Runs: (15) Bert Camacho, (13) Felisa Brel, Liz Lebria, (11) Lenise Kapileo, Pauline Camacho, Antonette Laniyo.
Doubles: (2) Jenny Palacios, Pauline Camacho, Evelyn Kani, Felisa Brel, Lilian Pangelinan.
Triples: (3) Evelyn Kani, Pauline Tudela, (2) Julie Guerrero, Lilian Pangelinan.
Homeruns: (2) Bert Camacho, Angela Ngirbedul, Kuki Pangelinan, Liz Lebria, (1) Marissa Guerrero, Edwina Baulechong, Joyce Taro, Polly Omechelang, Pauline Tudela, Charlene Cabrera.
RBIs: (13) Angela Ngirbedul, (12) Lilian Pangelinan, (9) Antonette Laniyo, Evelyn Kani, Kuki Pangelinan, Pauline Tudela, (8) Liz Lebria, Joyce Taro, Dolorina Panuelo.

Pitching Leaders

Name	Team	ERA
Bego Camacho	Finance	2.48
Polly Omechelang	NMC	3.85
Felisa Brel	NMC	4.03
Dolorina Panuelo	CUC	5.52
Eula Matsumoto	DCCA	6.30
Meng Yamada	CHC	11.29

Strikeouts: (19) Dolorina Panuelo, (18) Eula Matsumoto, (10) Meng Yamada, (8) Polly Omechelang.

Lizama single lifts Freedom Air to win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Catcher Al Lizama hit a one-run single at the bottom of the seventh inning to help Freedom Air escape Legislature, 4-3, in the men's division game in the 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The win was Freedom Air's eighth in nine games putting the team in solo second place behind the league-leading and defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (9-0).

Legislature dropped to a 6-4 mark.

The Lawmakers had control of the game after the first two innings, but lost the driver's seat when Freedom Air's defense shut out the former in the last five innings.

Both teams struggled at-bat with Freedom Air failing to score in the first three innings.

Legislature had two runs in the first inning and one in the second to take a 3-0 lead.

Freedom Air broke into the scoreboard on pitcher Roque Camacho's one-run double. It tied the game at the bottom of the fifth with second baseman Ken Villagomez making a double and driving Shane Yamada home, and Lizama connecting on a one-run single.

Neither team scored in the sixth inning and Legislature's misfortunes continued at the top of the last inning when Camacho struck out two Legislature batters and extra hitter Rox Kani was beaten to first.

At the bottom of the seventh, shortstop Reno Celis led off for Freedom Air, singled, and later advanced to second on Shane Yamada's sacrifice fly.

Legislature pitcher Perry Besong struck out Villagomez for the second out.

Lizama batted fourth and made the game-winning hit bringing Celis home.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Freedom Air's Shane Yamada practices his pitching skills during a warm-up in their game against Legislature in the 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League Wednesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

MEN'S
CUC 9, DLNR 8

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. withstood Department of Land and Natural Resources' late rally to pull off a 9-8 victory.

CUC improved to a 3-7 record, while DLNR absorbed its fifth loss in 10 games.

CUC shut out DLNR in the first six innings for a 9-0 lead, but DLNR made a comeback at the top of the seventh before falling short.

Three of DLNR's first four batters scored and after Greg Reyes flied out for the second out, the next five batters reached home plate to threaten CUC, 8-9.

Shortstop Jess Omar was next at-bat, doubled, advanced to second, and later to third on a CUC error.

Centerfielder Jay Camacho, who had a triple in his first trip at-bat, stepped up to the plate anew, hoping to bring Omar home and tie the game. But this time he flied out to leftfield helping CUC preserved the win.

CRM/DEQ 9, Mayor's Office 4

In the second game, CRM/DEQ downed the Mayor's Office, 9-4.

DEQ/CRM gained its fifth win in 10 games. Mayor's Office continued to occupy the bottom half of the team standings with its 1-9 slate.

Elmer Sablan was only 1-for-3 at-bat, but he connected on the lone home run in the game and had four RBIs.

Gus Pangelinan was also 1-for-3 at-bat, but hit a three-run triple at the bottom of the fifth inning.

DEQ/CRM, which led by only two runs, 5-3, after four complete innings, took full control of the game at the bottom of the fifth when it scored four runs.

Mayor's Office scored only one run in the last two innings foiling their bid for a come-from-behind win.

Camacho remains on top spot of pitching category

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Freedom Air's Roque Camacho remained the king of the mound in the ongoing men's division of the 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League.

Camacho in 29 innings pitched in five games and recorded 1.69 ERA. He allowed 21 runs, gave up 38 hits with only seven of them were earned. As a starting pitcher for Freedom Air, Camacho held a perfect 4-0 record.

Pitching leaders as of Jan. 9, 2009, were based on 13 or more innings pitched.

In second place was Department of Community and Cultural Affair's Mel Sakisat (3.92 ERA), followed by the Beach Boys' Steve Igisair (4.38), No Zone's Carl Hocog (4.48), Legislature's Perru Besong (4.62), Commonwealth Ports Authority's Ed Mendiola (4.74), Public School System's John Terlaje (4.78), P&S's Mike Sablan (5.25), Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Frank Shiro (5.25), and Joeten Jets' Shine Tenorio (5.32).

Esang Olkeriil posted the most strikeouts as of last week with 15, while three players made 13 strikeouts apiece.

The batting race, which was based on 16 or more times at-bat, had a new leader in No Zone's Ned Norita, who averaged .762 after going 16-for-21.

In second place was the Beach Boys' B.J. Sablan, who went 19-for-25 (.760), followed by Docomo's Payton Sakuma (.739), Freedom Air's Roy Celis (.714), and the Jets' J.J. Laniyo (.708).

Rounding off the Top 10 were POI's Tony Luzama, DCCA's Joey Dela Cruz, CPA's Mel Manahane, Freedom Air's Reno Celis, Legislature's Tony Celis, DCCA's Jun Saralu, the Jets' Ben Taisacan, CPA's Jack Diaz, DCCA's Mel Sakisat, and DLNR's Paul Lisua.

Dela Cruz scored the most runs with 20, while Laniyo had the most doubles (8), Taisacan made the most triples (4), and Byron Kaipat recorded the most homers (9), and RBIs (26).

The women's division had the same leaders in DCCA's Bert Camacho (batting), and Bego Camacho (pitching).

Bert had a batting average of .708 hitting 17-for-24. Keeping pace with Bert was Finance's Liz Lebria, who went 16-for-24 for a batting average of .667. DCCA's Antonette Laniyo placed third with her .619, followed by NMC's Angela Ngirbedul (.571), and Bego (.571).

Making it to the Top 10 were NMC's Joyce Taro, Finance's Lilian Pangelinan and Lenise Kapileo, DCCA's Jenny Teigita, Finance's Lilian Aguon, DCCA's Erica Tenorio, Finance's Julie Guerrero, NMC's Kuki Pangelinan and Pauline Camacho, and Finance's Pauline Tudela.

The runs and homerun leader was also Bert, who had 15 runs and two homers. Also making two round-trippers were Ngirbedul, Kuki, and Lebria. Other leaders were Jenny Palacios (two doubles), Ngirbedul (13 RBIs), and CUC's Dolorina Panuelo (19 strikeouts).

Bego posted a 2.48 ERA to lead five other pitchers. Bego played seven games and had a 3-4 record. She pitched 45 innings, allowed 82 hits and gave up 62 runs, only 16 of them were earned.

Bego finished ahead of two NMC pitchers—Polly Omechelang (3.85 ERA) and Felisa Brel (4.03).

Pitching race leader Roque Camacho is seen here warming up before Freedom Air's game against Legislature Wednesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Amigos non-Ace tourney on Sunday

The Amigos Golf Club of Saipan will hold a regular non-Ace tournament this coming Sunday, Jan. 18, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Tournament director Syl Ada said the showtime for the tournament is at 10:30am. For more information about tomorrow's tourney, go to www.amigosgolf.webs.com.

The revived Amigos Golf Club is led by President Ed Manglona and vice president Joe Sablan, Jr. Other officials are: secretary Terry Attao; treasurer Lorraine Babauta; public information officer Pete Leon Guerrero, and Ada.

Its board of directors include Ben Jones, Manny Blas, Joe Lizama, Frank Guerrero, Joe Tudela, and John M. Guerrero.

According to its website, the mission of the Amigos Golf Club is to foster friendship and camaraderie between friends, both men and women, who share the passion for the game of golf.

It said the new club is a spinoff of the old Amigos Club, but continues to be a venue for fellowship between friends or amigos.

The club plays every Sunday in accordance with the schedule, except when prevented by other conflicting events. Club members vie for the coveted monthly ace which is determined by the best net score between the qualifying game and the ace game held during each month.

Amigos Golf Club also holds an annual Ace of Aces Tournament that expects to crown the Club Champion from among the 12 monthly aces.

Its motto is: "Play Hard and Play Fair." ***(PR)***

RGA January Ace qualifier tomorrow

Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its January Ace of the Month qualifier tomorrow, Jan. 17, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

RGA tournament director Jess Wabol said check-in time for the weekend golf bash 11am with tee time set an hour later at 12pm. There will be slots for a maximum of 16 players.

Tournament fee is $30 and green fee is another $30.

Wabol also encouraged current and past members to pay RGA's annual membership fee, which will remain at $25 because of the current economic crisis.

For more information about RGA's January qualifier and the rest of its tournaments for 2009, contact president Jordan Kosam at 483-4506 or Wabol at 288-1129.

In related news, Wabol announced that the San Jose Church Golf Tournament will be held on March 14 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The tournament will adopt a double Peoria format and will award $300 for first place, $200 for second place, and $150 for third. Consolation prizes also await players that finished from fourth to 10th places. ***(PR)***

Spurs beat Lakers in West finals rematch

Roger Mason hit a jumper with 10 seconds left and made a free throw after being fouled by Derek Fisher, and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Los Angeles Lakers 112-111 on Wednesday night. 32

Lizama single lifts Freedom Air to win

Catcher Al Lizama hit a one-run single at the bottom of the seventh inning to help Freedom Air escaped past Legislature, 4-3, in the men's division game in the 2008 Inter Government/ Business Softball League. 35

Back-to-back for Lady Ayuyus

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Kagman High School notched back-to-back wins in the girls varsity division of the 2008-2009 MISO Basketball League after downing Saipan Southern High School, 44-31, yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Ayuyus controlled the game from start to finish giving coach Francis San Nicolas the luxury of using his bench in the latter part of the match.

Of San Nicolas' 12 players, nine made it to the scoreboard with Mercedes Mesa leading the way with nine points.

Agatha Repeki chipped in eight, making six of them in the second period to help KHS increased its three-point lead, 8-5, in the first period to 14 at halftime, 26-12.

The Lady Rays scored in double figures for the first time in the third canto with Diane Joseph firing eight of her team's 10 points in that period.

Kagman answered with one field goal apiece from four players to remain on top, 34-22, entering the final canto.

Southern failed to make headway in the payoff period dropping to a 0-2 start this season.

Despite the loss, the Lady Rays made a significant improvement from their 17-59

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 34

Kagman and Southern players battle for the rebound during their game in the girls varsity division of the MISO caging yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Festival of Runs draws hundreds of athletes

The 2009 Winter Festival of Runs set for tomorrow is slated to be the biggest yet with over 400 registered participants and more signing up.

"We're very pleased with the high international turnout," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "With the number of participants and streamlined operations this year, we're looking forward to the best festival run, yet."

Runners have already started arriving from Japan, China, Guam, and other off-island locations this week for the competition, which will consist of the full Saipan Marathon (42.195 km), a half marathon (21.079 km) and a 10k fun run along Saipan's scenic roadways.

Adding to the professionalism of the event, an automated, chip-technology timing system will be utilized by timing company Keisoku-kobo. The system will pro-

See FESTIVAL on Page 34

Heo lone survivor Down Under

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis player Ji Hoon Heo is the last man standing for the ITF Pacific Oceania Touring Team in the 2009 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Champ.

Heo advanced to the Round of 16 of the boys' 16-and-under singles division of the tournament being played at the Wodonga Lawn Tennis Club in Wodonga, Victoria, Australia.

The CNMI bet was at the upper half of the 64-player draw of his second tournament Down Under and stunned the No. 9 seed Luke Vicary of Lake Albert, NSW in the first round, 6-2, 6-2.

In the Round of 32, Heo was paired with Ryan Jones and the former cruised to another straight set win, 6-1, 6-1, to move into the Round of 16.

Heo was set to face the No. 5 seed Sean Carson of Wodonga in the Round of 16 yesterday afternoon with the winner advancing to the quarterfinals and meeting either top seed Ethan Scobie or Sam Currie.

Joining Heo at the upper half of the

See HEO on Page 34

Ji Hoon Heo in action in the 2008 Open Junior BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Caledonie in Noumea.

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

BCS revisited

Regular readers of this column who do not have damaged brains know my general opposition to the BCS. Now I descend into that hell of a system just to play devil's advocate.

Long live the BCS!

(I should go to confession for that lie).

To those who would like to go back to the good old days when writers and coaches voted for the champions, I say, "There were never any good old days; they were just days."

And to those who push for playoffs like that meddler Obama, I say, "Sure, right after you pay the players, oops—students, more since they are the ones missing school and time with their families during the holidays just to satisfy your insatiable need to pig out on college pigskin, you selfish pigs."

With an eight-team playoff, the two teams in the finale will have played three games after the regular season. That would give Florida a total of 16 games, same as 24 NFL teams. So I say, pay the boys like the pros and then I'll agree with a playoff.

Here's what we learned, not just from this season but from

See BCS on Page 34